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Russian days of reform 'are ending'

Gorbachev's future looks bleak US says

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE US State Department, hitherto one of President Gorbachev's strongest supporters in the American administration, believes that the Soviet leader's days as a champion of reform are probably over and that a period of harsh repression could be on the way, with or without him at the helm.

The progressive forces Mr Gorbachev has unleashed within his troubled country are ultimately "irreversible", one of the administration's top Soviet experts said this week, but in the near term the political outlook was bleak.

In a surprisingly pessimistic interview, he spoke of a possibly devastating crackdown on secessionist republics and opposition groups, and gave a warning of potentially grave consequences for US-Soviet relations.

Further evidence of Mr Gorbachev's difficulties came in Moscow yesterday as he struggled to win the supreme legislature's approval for a new union treaty. Originally seen as the underpinning for

his reforms, to be in place by the end of the year, there is almost no prospect of even an agreement in principle by that deadline. Only Belarusia, Turkmenia and Azerbaijan, which is under a heavy military presence, are in favour of the draft treaty. The Baltic republics, Armenia, Moldavia and Georgia will not agree to any new treaty and others want modifications.

The Larvian government yesterday denounced a "planned scenario" whose final goal is to enable Moscow to impose a state of emergency and introduce presidential rule".

Publicly, President Bush and top officials still express confidence in Mr Gorbachev: last week announcing a substantial aid programme "to help the Soviet Union stay the course of democratisation and to undertake market reforms".

Yesterday, the Soviet expert said that Mr Gorbachev had become an indispensable ally in international affairs, and because Soviet support in the Gulf confrontation was so critical, "we may give him a little more benefit of the doubt".

But privately, the administration is starting to hedge its bets, though it has not completely written off Mr Gorbachev. It has intensified efforts to cultivate leaders of the Soviet republics and radical reformers who, it believes, will eventually come to power. At the moment, America has just one consulate outside Moscow, in Leningrad, but it is opening another in Kiev early next year and has plans for four or five more around the Soviet Union.

In Houston last week James Baker, the US Secretary of State, told Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, of the administration's concern at Moscow's increasingly authoritarian stance and warned that a "crackdown, particularly in the Baltic states, would jeopardise relations with Washington. The administration ensured that this view reached the public domain.

The biggest lever America has over Moscow is economic. Mr Bush last week suspended trade restrictions to allow Moscow \$1 billion of agricultural credits and danger the prospect of normalised trade relations in every field. However, the waiver must be reviewed next July, a

Deputies walk out, page 10

Weekend trip to Gulf for Prince of Wales

By ALAN HAMILTON and ANDREW MC EWEN

THE Prince of Wales will visit British troops in Saudi Arabia this weekend, at a time when the prospects for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf stalemate appear to be diminishing by the day.

For security reasons, details of the prince's itinerary are not being made public, but Buckingham Palace said that he will spend Saturday and Sunday on a pre-Christmas morale-boosting tour of British forces arranged against President Saddam Hussein's occupying forces in Kuwait.

The announcement coincided with a decision by European Community foreign ministers in Brussels not to enter into a dialogue with

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Poles dream of a Kalashnikov for Christmas

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

FOR Poles who have everything (and there are a few), the perfect Christmas present: a well oiled, only slightly-used Kalashnikov for £200.

The place to go is Rozycie, a sprawling open market in the battered Warsaw district of Praga, a convenient drive from the Soviet army barracks. In the bazaar, as in Harrods, you can buy anything, from pregnant hamsters to rare medicines, from caviar by the kilo to cordless telephones shaped like Mickey Mouse. Here criminal meets criminal, and criminal meets victim.

The real boom is for Soviet army memorabilia. What could be more memorable than a Kalashnikov? "Surprise your husband, darling," cackles a crane who would, in normal times, be selling wild berries or basketwork.

Andrej has the details, neatly typed on

a piece of paper pinned to the wooden slats of his stall. A bazooka for £450 sounds a bargain. The most popular buy is the bulky Soviet officer's pistol, big enough to scare any bank clerk.

The savants say to hold off, since prices will tumble next year when Soviet troops are transported home from Germany, through Poland. Eight troop trains a day for the next four years. No stops are envisaged but the soldiers will be travelling at night: no doubt convenient signal stops can be arranged.

The arms market in eastern parts of Germany is said to undercut the Poles on Kalashnikovs. But who can afford to shop in Germany? And there are so few shopping days left to Christmas.

Poland is in the grip of a gun craze. Coshes went out with communism and criminals regard guns as status symbols. Potential victims are arming up, too, and

many of the *nouveaux riches* are now two-gun households.

There has always been a large armoury of hunting weapons; some 140,000 rifles are registered. Communist officials who were issued with handguns to protect themselves against the counter revolution are hanging on to their weapons for sentimental reasons, even though they should have returned them to the police.

The legalisation of gas guns has transformed the situation. So far, Warsaw claims 20,000 registered owners. On top of that, hundreds are being smuggled in from Germany each week.

But for masculine mystique you can't beat the Kalashnikov. The result is a rash of break-ins at Polish armories and losses from Soviet garrisons. Some Soviet army units are now forbidden to take arms out of barracks because so many are "lost" on exercise.



An eye to the future: Gorbachev facing hostility at home and a loss of confidence abroad

Treasury ready for interest rate to fall sooner than expected

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE government will cut British interest rates in line with falling inflation even if sterling remains in the bottom half of the European exchange-rate mechanism, senior officials disclosed yesterday. The government will not be obliged to wait for sterling to reach any particular level before it considers the next cut in rates.

The Treasury is looking not at the pound's precise level, but at its direction of movement and its general stability within ERM. It will give the Chancellor more room for manoeuvre in the face of a recession which officials admit is deeper than expected.

The Treasury is now revising downwards the economic forecasts released by the Chancellor in his autumn economic statement.

Mr Lamont said last week that there could be "no question of a reduction in interest rates that is not fully justified by our position in the ERM".

This was seen as ruling out the widely-expected cut in interest rates for the foreseeable future. As a result, the Chancellor was widely criticised for having boxed himself into a dangerously inflexible policy in the midst of the steadily worsening recession. In a Commons statement yesterday, the prime minister also ruled out an immediate cut in interest rates.

It now appears, however, that interest rates could come down in the new year, pro-

vided only that sterling does not continue falling and that it stabilises somewhere comfortably above its ERM floor of DM1.78 against the German Mark. This condition should be easier to satisfy than the substantial strengthening of sterling which Mr Lamont was thought to be demanding.

According to the Treasury, the exact level of sterling in the ERM is irrelevant, provided that it is comfortably above the bottom of the band. What matters is that the markets and the pay barometers understand that the country will defend the band as a whole with absolute determination.

Once investors accept that there is no chance that sterling will be allowed to fall below the bottom of its ERM band, officials believe that market sentiment will improve and the pound will strengthen or at least stabilise. This will allow interest rates to be reduced.

Officials believe that the weakening of the economy will lead to even faster falls in inflation than expected. This, they believe, should boost market confidence in sterling and allow interest rates to be lowered without undermining the currency. They acknowledge, however, that the ERM constraint will slow down the process of interest rate reduction and probably lead to a deeper recession than Britain might have suffered outside the ERM. But this cost will be offset by a bigger improvement in inflation.

'Bizarre' switch of Soviet troops

From MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT
IN BRUSSELS

THE Soviet military has switched up to three motor rifle divisions, totalling about 40,000 troops, from the army to the navy in an apparent attempt to exclude the tanks and artillery deployed with the units from being counted under the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, according to defence sources.

The army units have been redesignated as "coastal defence divisions". The transfer took place before November 19, the day the CFE treaty was signed by the 22 members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact at the summit in Paris. The attempt to circumvent the treaty before it has been ratified apparently caused astonishment, not just in Western capitals but also at the Soviet foreign ministry.

One source said that Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, did not appear to be aware of what the military had done. "We don't believe that Shevardnadze would have tried this on," the source said. "He was every bit as surprised as we were. The whole thing is bizarre."

At the end of a two-day Nato North Atlantic Council meeting of foreign ministers yesterday, James Baker, the American secretary of state, said the Soviet Union was guilty of two potential contraventions of the CFE treaty. He referred to the discrepancy between the Soviet figures for equipment in the area covered by the treaty and Western estimates, and added: "The other problem is the question how they treat naval inventory."

£96m move to help homeless

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday announced the immediate provision of 1,000 new bedspaces as the first step in a £96 million initiative to clear the streets of London and other main cities of homeless people sleeping rough.

Sir George Young, the housing and planning minister, approved schemes that will

provide 320 hostels spaces run by voluntary groups in addition to the 140 announced in October, giving direct access for 460 people sleeping rough in London. There will also be 700 places provided by housing associations in shared and self-contained flats and houses for people in hostels to move on to, and which will become available from February.

The initiative comes in the wake of John Major's declared priority, when he became prime minister, to tackle the problem of the homeless.

Sir George Young, the housing and planning minister, approved schemes that will

Church Housing Association, Providence Row Housing Association, St Mungo's, Shaftesbury and Centrepoint, Threshold housing associations, with an emphasis on action in the Waterloo and Victoria areas. Nick Hardwick, director of Centrepoint, has joined the environment department for six months to work on the development of the initiative.

Once the London initiative is under way, the government intends to extend it to other areas of the country where people are sleeping rough, but Sir George said that London was the first object for attention because that was where the problem was worst.

The initiative found no favour with Clive Soley, Labour's shadow housing

minister, who said it was "the same old policies in Christmas wrapping." In the Commons, Neil Kinnock, the opposition leader, joined issue with the prime minister over the number of homeless people, claiming that new house building was now at its lowest level since the first world war. Rejecting the criticism Mr Major praised the voluntary housing movement, the housing associations and the action taken on homelessness.

Sheila McKechnie, director of Shelter, said: "We are dismayed at the fact that this is not new money, and is no substitute for a proper, national housing policy."

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Britain to stand by Social Charter veto

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

MICHAEL Howard, the employment secretary, has reaffirmed that Britain would never allow its veto over the European Community's Social Charter to be abolished by changes to the EC's treaty. This will help to dispel Conservative fears that John Major, the prime minister, was softening Britain's opposition to EC social policy during the Rome summit at the weekend.

"Changing the Treaty of Rome will not work," Mr Howard said during an emergency meeting of EC social affairs ministers in Brussels yesterday. The government saw no case for extending majority voting into the realm of social legislation, he said.

Italy called the meeting in an effort to push through laws on temporary employment and improve its flagging reputation on social matters before

stepping down from the EC presidency at the end of the month. But the ministers only agreed health and safety rules for part-time workers, failing again to agree on more radical measures guaranteeing equal treatment for temporary and full-time employees.

Mr Howard said there was

now widespread opposition among EC states to many key measures within the social charter, and even "unanimous disapproval" for full regulations for part-time work at a Community level. But Britain appears willing to separate out some of the 50-odd elements of the charter for approval and reject those it dislikes, instead of dismissing the entire charter out of hand, he said. This marks a distinct change of tone from Mrs Thatcher.

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Local property tax 'quick way out of community charge'

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A LOCAL property tax, similar to domestic rates but based on the capital value of homes, would be the simplest and fairest replacement for the poll tax, an independent report on local government finance said yesterday.

The study, the first and most wide-ranging of its kind since the introduction of the community charge, was handed yesterday to Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which commissioned it.

Based on analysis of local taxation in Britain, Europe and North America, the 84-page report concluded that a domestic property tax was the most "robust, appropriate and flexible" means of raising revenue for local councils. Guy Hollis, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, who led the study team, said: "This type of property tax could be implemented quickly and should appeal to the government as a short way out of the community charge."

The report proposed a new approach to funding local government, which would let taxpayers see exactly how their money was spent, and suggested that some services, such as libraries and school meals, should no longer be subsidised.

If the proposed redistribution of the cost of council services had been applied to the existing municipal structure this year, average rates bills would have ranged from £136 to £527, depending on the level of government grant. That compares favourably

with this year's average poll tax bill of £357 a head.

The report, by a team of local government finance experts, including senior management consultants and leading academics, said Mr Heseltine was right to examine local government structure while reviewing the poll tax.

Its principal conclusion in favour of a property tax based on capital value, however, seemed to endorse Labour's "fair rates" proposals.

The study said it would be almost impossible to reform the poll tax. Banding the tax according to ability to pay, as previously suggested by Mr Heseltine, was no solution because it would create more poverty traps than there were in the present system of rebates. Mr Hollis said that a local income tax would be very complex to administer although, as the Inland Revenue completed its computerisation programme, it might become a viable alternative for raising revenue for a regional tier of government as proposed by Labour.

The team had also ruled out the adoption of a local sales tax, which would be too easy to avoid by "border-hopping" and would fall foul of EC rules on the harmonisation of taxes.

A return to the old rating system, based on notional rental values, was unlikely to win much public support. One reason for its removal was because it was seen to be based on unfair estimates of value.

By contrast, information about capital values was easy to come by from estate agents.

Alternatives to the Community Charge (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 40 Water End, York YO3 6LP; £10 inc p&p)



Tree time: boys of Westminster cathedral choir school in London have fun taking delivery of their Christmas tree

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OFT clears merger of BSkyB

By MELINDA WITSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, has decided not to refer the merger between Sky Television and British Satellite Broadcasting to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

His decision follows an investigation into the deal by the Office of Fair Trading. Sir Gordon Borne, OFT director-general, told the department of trade that there were no grounds for a referral under the 1973 Fair Trading Act.

An OFT spokesman said all public interest concerns relating to the merger are safeguarded in the 1990 broadcasting act. He said, however, that the Sadler enquiry into cross-media ownership, due to be published shortly, is sure to address the BSkyB merger.

The European Commission has also cleared the merger, on the grounds that it applied only to the British market.

The Independent Television Commission (ITC), which must decide before January 1 whether to grant the merged group a non-domestic satellite television licence, said it hopes to have made a decision by the end of this week. The commission, angered that BSkyB shareholders did not seek its consent before the merger, could rule that the deal is not "fit and proper persons" to hold a licence.

Cover-up denied

A South West Water authority chief denied yesterday that there was any attempt to cover up the discharge of 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate into a waterworks, which affected more than 20,000 people at Camelford, Cornwall, in July 1988.

Exeter crown court was also told that Keith Court, the authority's chairman, had told police that the arrangements that accepted the mistaken delivery of the chemical were unacceptable. The authority has pleaded not guilty to breaching public health regulations. The hearing continues today.

Bombing evidence

The Court of Appeal is to hear fresh expert evidence today on the fingerprints used to convict Gilbert McNamee, alleged to have been the IRA bomber behind the Hyde Park bomb which killed four soldiers of the Household Cavalry in 1982.

Injury fine

Trevor Kay, owner of Petts Crafts and Gardens in Reedham, Norfolk, was fined £300 yesterday by Great Yarmouth magistrates after a boy aged 13 was injured while driving a miniature train at the leisure park. Kay, who admitted being in breach of health and safety rules, was also ordered to pay £400 costs.

Lines protest

People living in Buttermere in the Lake District said yesterday that they were prepared to be arrested to stop yellow lines being painted in the village.

Bridge opened

A £1.5 million bridge and road link was opened in Kendal,

Libel win for Wendy Savage

By LIN JENKINS

THE consultant obstetrician Wendy Savage has been awarded substantial undisclosed damages in settlement of a libel action over an essay published by the Social Affairs Unit, a right-wing think-tank.

The article accused her of dangerous medical practices and alleged she held extreme feminist views. Mary Kenny, the journalist who wrote the essay published in *Family Portraits* in 1986, apologised through her solicitor at the High Court and said in a statement: "I am happy to acknowledge that Mrs Savage has never held the views I attributed to her."

Mrs Savage, senior lecturer at the London Hospital Medical School, who was charged with incompetence and suspended five years ago but later cleared and reinstated, said that the money would be donated to women's health organisations.

• The lives of hundreds of babies could be saved at birth if doctors and midwives were more skilled at resuscitation, a joint working party from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the College of Anaesthetists said yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

The group said that about 600 of the 600,000 babies born each year in the UK died or suffered permanent damage in the first minutes after birth.

Stabbing case

Laith Hashim Alani, aged 24, accused of stabbing to death two consultant plastic surgeons at Pinderfields hospital, Wakefield, has been transferred from prison to the Rampton secure mental hospital, Nottinghamshire, West Yorkshire magistrates were told yesterday. He was remanded in his absence, in custody until January 11.

550 lose jobs

More than 550 cleaners are to lose their jobs with Hampshire county council after six major contracts were awarded to private companies.

Tory choice

Andrew Rowbotham, aged 29, a former SAS officer, has been chosen as the Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Blaby, the Leicestershire constituency of Nigel Lawson.

107 years old

Beatrice Amesbury, celebrated her 107th birthday yesterday at Greenhill Grange old people's home at Frome, Somerset.

£1.5 million bridge and road link was opened in Kendal,

The homeless debate: Times reporters look at the background to yesterday's government announcement

Campaigner for dispossessed takes on policy

By RAY CLANCY

FOR many people it would be a dream come true: to be elevated from campaigner for the homeless to policymaker advising the government. For Nick Hardwick, however, it is just another opportunity to help young people.

Mr Hardwick, aged 33, the director of Centrepoint, the largest voluntary organisation for young homeless people in London, is to join the environment department to help to develop a strategy for tackling the scandal of people sleeping rough on the streets.

He likes to play down his skills and prefers talking about the need to change the social security rules so that young people are not left penniless as well as homeless, the need to provide for homeless people with bad health, and the wonderful job that those in the department are doing.

Since joining Centrepoint four years ago, Mr Hardwick has never missed an opportunity to criticise the government for its policy on homelessness. Last year, he said the policies put forward by Margaret Thatcher's government were prejudiced and based on the idea that all young people begging on the streets were feckless and idle, with loving parents waiting for them to return home.

He was not happy with the way in which policy was developing at the environment department under the then housing minister, Michael Spicer. He described the civil servants who drew up the rules as having been born middle-aged and said: "If young people could be ordered as neatly as the Department of the Environment seems to think, a lot of parents would sleep easier in their beds."

Now, with a new prime minister, and, more importantly, the appointment of Sir George Young as housing minister, things are looking up.

"For a long time the department didn't want to listen to the experienced people who were working with the homeless on a day-to-day basis. Now we have a very professional team," Mr Hardwick said yesterday. He is very optimistic, but said that, for

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A young man living rough in London sips hot broth given to him by the Salvation Army soup run

Numbers are uncertain and definitions unclear

THE official number of homeless people in Britain varies according to each survey, but all agree the statistics are too high. An independent watchdog has estimated that they have more than doubled in the past 12 years (Ray Clancy writes).

Figures for 1990 are not yet available but last week MPs were told that the number of homeless is expected to increase by 15 per cent. But the definition of homeless is unclear. Last September the then housing minister, Michael Spicer, was criticised over proposals to change the description from statutory homeless to statutory rehoused. The Audit Office, an independent watchdog, said in August at least 300,000 people had no home, more than double the

Prime role for forgotten agency

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE Housing Corporation, a sometimes almost forgotten agency, is to be the main provider of social housing under the present government, acting through housing associations.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has already let it be known that he sees the corporation as the main policy instrument, replacing local authorities, and the appointment as housing minister of Sir George Young, who has close links with the housing association movement, shows that that will be implemented.

In the past, the corporation has complained of being starved of money to fulfil its purpose and of running out of funds for association projects.

There have been signs this year that this view has been accepted.

and the first tangible result is the announcement in a parliamentary written answer on Monday that more resources will be concentrated on housing the homeless through the corporation's rising capital expenditure programme.

Sir George has the issue of the homeless at the top of his in-tray and his announcement of funding for the corporation confirmed the priority. The corporation's gross expenditure for 1993/94 is expected to exceed £2 billion, a 65 per cent rise over the present year, with a target of 40,000 completions in that year compared with an annual figure of about 27,000 now.

The Housing Corporation, established in 1964, is responsible for supervising the work of 2,300 housing associations registered with it. They provide over 500,000 homes. The corporation supplies funding for the associations' schemes, providing homes for rent and low-cost home ownership for those in housing need, including poor families, the homeless, elderly and disabled people.

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In his announcement, Sir George said that the extra resources would enable housing associations to provide more subsidised housing, with special emphasis on helping the homeless.

Approving the corporation's development programme, Sir George said that about half the total of new homes for rent would be targeted on the homeless. The corporation was committed to efficiency gains of at least 5 per cent over three years through, among other things, greater attention to cost competition in bids.

By RAY CLANCY

A RECORD 250,000 families are likely to be without a permanent home by the end of the century unless there is a big increase in house building and more money is found to help the homeless, according to a report published today.

Councils are spending twice as much on putting families in temporary housing as it would cost to build new homes for them. The only solution is for the government to reverse its policy on providing council homes and increase spending throughout the country, the report from Shelter, the National Campaign for the Homeless, says.

Wasting Money, Wasting Lives is the first national report on the increasing use of temporary housing, according to Shelter. It found that 34,000 families are without a permanent home this Christmas.

More than 100 families throughout Britain were interviewed about life in bed-and-breakfast hotels, caravans, and hostels, and other kinds of temporary housing. A survey was also conducted of local authorities to find out what they were doing to help the homeless. It found that families had to wait an average of 11 months in temporary housing before moving to a permanent home, and more than half of those interviewed had heard nothing from their local council while they were waiting for a home.

Most of those interviewed were very worried about their children's health. None of the temporary housing surveyed had space for children to play in, and in some bed-and-breakfast hotels up to 25 families had to share toilets.

The report calls for an end to the "scandal of temporary housing" and asks the government to provide at least 200,000 new council and housing association homes a year. It says that all councils with high numbers of

homeless people should be allowed to use revenue from council house sales to build more homes, and that there should be a national minimum standard for all types of temporary housing.

Sheila McKechnie, director of Shelter, said: "Record numbers of families are living in often squalid and degrading temporary accommodation. This is a damning indictment of our housing policy. Not only are families suffering real hardship, but using temporary housing is financially crazy."

Government figures show that 126,680 families were officially homeless in 1989. Shelter estimates that the figure represents 363,500 individuals, but says in the report that the total number of homeless is much higher. It says that the government figures refer only to the statutory homeless, which excludes those who are sleeping rough and couples who live with their parents because they have no home of their own.

The report describes temporary housing as "a lasting nightmare" and gives examples of dwellings overrun by rats and black beetles, shared toilets and kitchens, and places with no hot water for washing.

Kate, who lives in a council hostel in Islington, north London, said: "We have cooking facilities but I have no pots and pans as my family allowance has not come through for four months. We eat take-aways." Sila, who lives in a bed-and-breakfast hotel in Woodspring, Avon, said: "There's one shower for 11 people. There's a bath but it has no hot water. The hotel is damp. Mould grows on your clothes."

Even more complaints are listed from people living in council hostels. Susan, who lives in a hostel in Ryedale, North Yorkshire, said: "There are six children here and no play space. There is no fridge and no laundry facilities. The fire extinguishers are always empty because kids set them off. There are beetles in the bedroom. I get fed up because I can't keep the place clean."

Jean, of Mansfield, said: "I can't use the hot tap in the bathroom. The place is infested with carwigs. There are only four power points but the fuse box blows three times a week. The drains overflow in the yard and the garden is full of rubbish."

Some places are so strict that those who live there said that they feel like inmates in a prison. Denise, of Bradford, said: "We have to be out of the hotel by 10am. That means I have to get up at 6am to be ready to go out for the day. The rules say you have to keep children quiet which is quite impossible."

Dawn, of Woodspring, said: "The backdoor is locked between 3pm and 9pm. The kitchen cannot be used after 9pm which makes it hard to time with the baby's food. No kettles are allowed in rooms and there is no hot water after 10pm."

Rooflessness internationally shows variety of roots and responses

By ALICE THOMSON

EUROPE and the United States once pitted the homeless in Third World nations, but whereas these countries have grappled with the problem for years, the West has only recently had to address concern about street sleeping.

In Washington, drug and mental problems have led many people to live on the streets, often in freezing conditions. Homelessness became an acute problem ten years ago; now 20,000 of the £60,000 population are homeless.

Cities in Europe have all seen a dramatic rise in homelessness, especially among the young. The municipal authorities in Paris say that some 9,000 people were registered with centres for the homeless at any one time last year. Officials admit that the total is probably several thousand higher because few bother to register.

Most of the homeless are believed to be wandering clochards, or tramps, but recently there have been some well-publicised evictions of families in working-class quarters. Unlike in London, few children are seen begging with

their mothers, but many are accompanied by many dogs.

Paris has municipal shelters providing temporary lodging for about 1,000 people a night, and others are run by charitable organisations. Centres for the homeless provide meals, job information and Metro tickets, but there are still people huddled on boulevards and in the Metro with placards asking for food.

In Hong Kong, the homeless are called street sleepers and the government is fairly lenient about their make-shift camps in the

humid city. It is trying to adopt a personalised approach of meeting the needs of individual street sleepers, but it still considers them a major environmental concern.

Last year, there were 1,031 registered street sleepers, but the average age, at 52.5 years, is far higher than in Europe, with nearly one third of the sleepers aged over 60. Only a third are considered to be in mental health and 15 per cent are mentally ill.

Hong Kong's high rents have forced many people on to the streets, and at least a third are still employed, going to work each day from their make-shift shacks.

However, homelessness, which has long been a problem in the city, is declining. Only in West Kowloon, where 60 per cent of people are street sleepers, is the problem growing. Counselling, blankets and old age allowance are offered, but most of the people have been on the streets for so long that they are loath to move.

India still has an overwhelming homelessness problem. More than 100,000 of Delhi's eight million population lack a roof. They sleep

on railway station platforms, under hoardings and beneath wheelbarrows that serve as make-shift shops during daytime. Few are drug addicts or mentally disabled, most are just too poor to find accommodation or even to live in the unauthorised squatter shacks, in which an eighth of Delhi's population subsists.

Many leave their families in the villages and come to Delhi to work as porters and rickshaw pullers. The municipal corporation provides shelters only during the monsoon or bad winters, but Hindu temples and Sikh gurdwaras sometimes offer free meals.

Only China admits no homelessness. The government provides accommodation for all, a spokesman at the Chinese embassy in London said. However, the unmarried and the old are expected to live with relatives. In Peking, there is a severe housing shortage, and families are expected to bear the burden of poor relatives. As for homelessness, the spokesman said: "In China, such things don't happen because we still have strong customs."

Children's better world will cost £10bn

By DAVID YOUNG

THE cost of meeting pledges by 70 world leaders to make the world a safer and better place for children by the year 2,000 has been calculated by Unicef at £10 billion, the amount the world spends on defence every ten days.

The promises the leaders made at the World Summit for Children earlier this year included reducing child deaths by one third, halving maternal mortality, malnutrition and illiteracy rates in all countries, and providing clean water, safe sanitation and basic education for all children.

James Grant, the executive director of Unicef, has now called for increased aid to be given to meet those aims. He said that the sum needed was not only insignificant in comparison to military spending but was only half as much as Germany will spend on the process of reunification in the coming year. He also said that more efficient use could be made of the money that was already spent.

"Aid for primary health care, including family planning, primary education, and rural water supply and sanitation, totals only just over 3 per cent of the industrialised world's aid," he said. "In every country, rich and poor, an enormous effort will be needed to keep up the political

pressure to keep faith with the promises that have been made, and to commit societies to goals for the year 2,000, so that failure to live up to them will become no less than a matter for national and international shame. Political commitment is ultimately a matter not only for politicians but for us all."

Mr Grant will launch his appeal for further aid today on publication of the *State of the World's Children* report, prepared by Professor John Bradshaw, of York university, and published by the National

Children's Bureau.

cough among British children is at a lower level than in Botswana, Costa Rica or Egypt.

"The publication of these two reports, one on the situation of children throughout the world, and the other on the situation of children in our own country, couldn't be more timely. It shows that no country is perfect when it comes to the care and protection of its children."

"Children have no vote or voice so they have been overlooked. The world summit has given us the chance to change all that. We must take that chance."

The Unicef report says that on present trends the number of children being born in the world each year is likely to peak in about the year 2,000 and fall as the 21st century gets under way.

The children of the 1990s will therefore be the largest generation ever entrusted to mankind and the present generation of adults will rightly be judged by how it meets the challenge of protecting their lives, their growth, their education and their rights, the report says.

State of the World's Children (Unicef UK, 071 405 5592, £3.95). *Child Poverty and Deprivation in the UK* (National Children's Bureau, 071 278 9441).

Shoppers get plea for Soviet food aid

By RUTH GLEDHILL

CHURCHES, fellowships and Christmas shoppers were urged yesterday to provide food aid for the Soviet Union. The Movement for Christian Democracy appealed to shoppers who wish to contribute to arrange for food to be delivered to Stansted airport.

The food campaign comes after requests for help from Alexander Ogorodnikov, former prisoner of conscience and the leader of the Soviet Christian Democratic Union. The movement hopes to fit an Aeroflot transport plane every week with food to fly to Moscow.

The operation, led also by the Women's Group for Soviet Jewry and the Christian-based Jubilee Campaign, plans to send the first flight of food on Christmas day.

The movement issued a list of priority items needed in Moscow, including canned food and baby mixes. Dr Robert Song, chairman of the steering group, said: "We are not asking for money. We are asking that people will think when they are doing their Christmas shopping to add a couple of cans to provide for the flights."

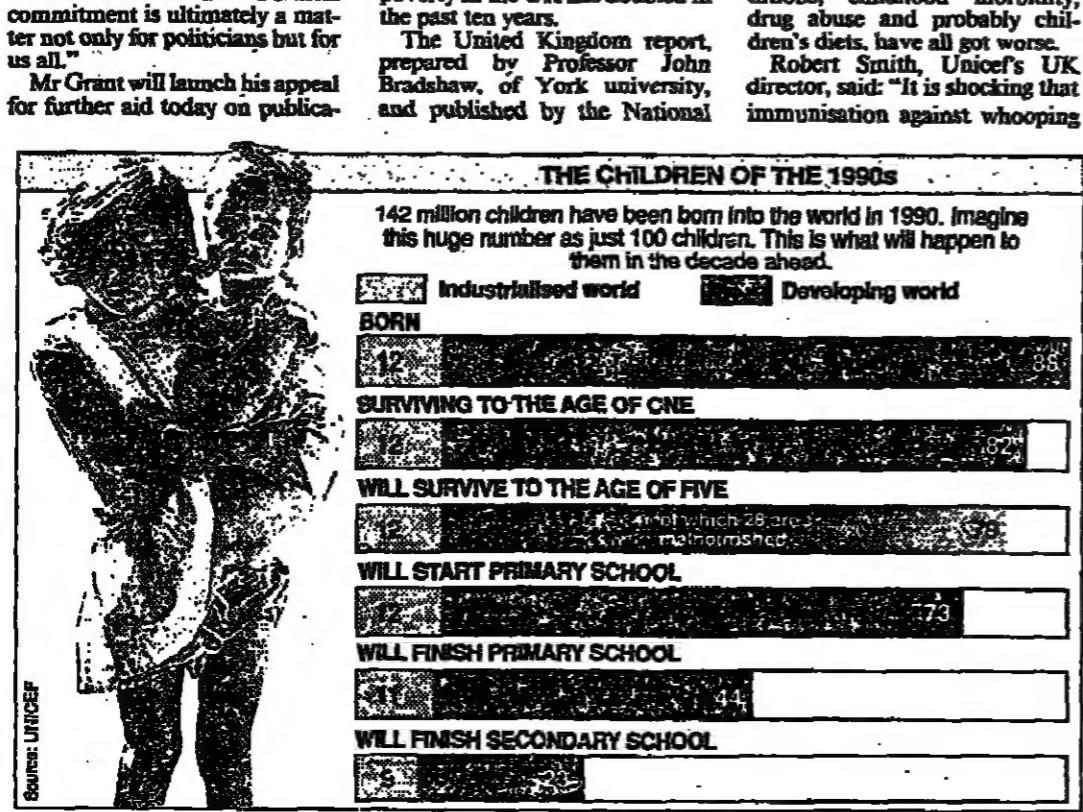
Campaign organisers are contacting churches, chapels and synagogues in an effort to gather food parcels. A member of the campaign will check in parcels before delivery to Moscow, and

their distribution to people in need will be supervised in Moscow. Those include mothers with babies, children in orphanages, those in old people's homes, the poor and the refugees. Danny Smith, of the Jubilee Campaign, said: "Churches in the Soviet Union will be involved in helping with the distribution and this should ensure that food is neither stockpiled nor lost on the black market."

Instructions on how to provide aid are available from the Jubilee Campaign on 081 892 3637.

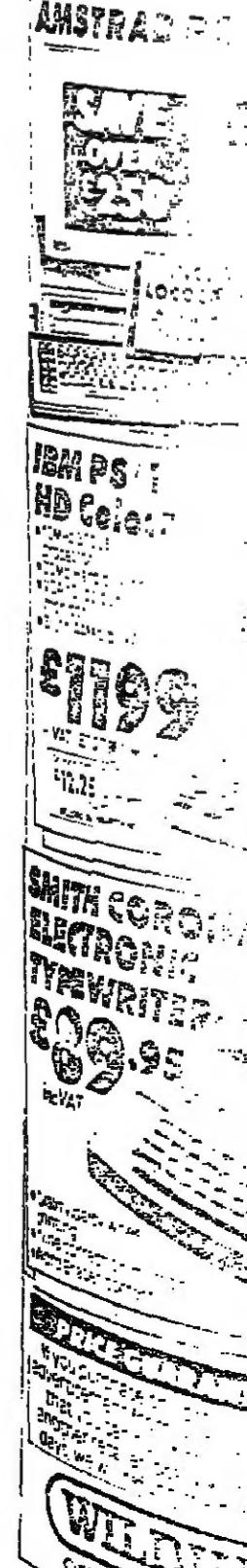
□ Canon Glyn Jones, general secretary of the Missions to Seamen, has been invited to a seminar on seafarers' welfare in the Soviet Union. Merchant seafarers in the Gulf will soon receive 1,000 Christmas parcels, now wrapped and ready for distribution by the missions' Dubai chaplain, the Rev Duncan Harris.

□ A Soviet cosmonaut is to broadcast a live message to Britain on Christmas day to say "thank you" for 16 tonnes of essential drugs donated to children's hospitals in the Soviet Union and which were airlifted last night (David Young writes). Donations can still be sent to Lena Appeal, British Science and Technology Trust, 78 Bollo Bridge Road, London SW3 8AU.



Source: UNICEF

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Baker
Iraq
pullout
not stop

Saddam says
no point in
going to US

Call for troops

Supply ships

But
as s

Dutch protest

Japanese gift

The three hundred thousand Kuwaitis still
trapped in their own country.

You don't even hear mention of the
three hundred thousand who were forced to
abandon their homes. In
fact, the three hundred thousand who have
been held as hostages for days of tortures
and beatings, the three hundred thousand
who have been tortured, beaten, starved
and threatened with death in
concentration camps.

But they do exist and they need
support, as much as you do when the
hostages.

They live their lives in hell, but, up until now,
haven't been kept well and fed. In fact, many
have been starved simply for trying to be
kind and good foreigners of their own.

For the first time in history, the Kuwaitis
have been forced to live in their own country.

They are the ones who have been forced to
abandon their homes. They are the ones who have
been held as hostages for days of tortures
and beatings.

They are the ones who have been forced to
abandon their homes. They are the ones who have

been held as hostages for days of tortures
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They are the ones who have been forced to

abandon their homes.

Hong Kong bank move seen as storm warning

From JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

THE imposing bulk of the futuristic Hong Kong Bank building loomed unchanged over Hong Kong's central district yesterday, the stock market did not crash and the bank's shares rose 4 per cent.

But as the news sank in that the bank, in effect the colony's central bank, is to become a subsidiary of a holding company in London, it was clear something had changed. In a territory used to devastating typhoons, some analysts were calling the eerie calm no more

Mugabe targets firms' land

From JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE Zimbabwe government is planning to seize land belonging to multinational companies as part of its controversial land programme, which was unveiled in July, senior sources in the ruling Zanu party have said.

They quoted Witness Mangwende, minister of agriculture, as telling the party central committee at the weekend that the multinationals would be included in legislation being drafted to implement the "revolutionary" land policy, which holds that the government will buy foreign-owned land and lease it back as a compensation for the investment the companies had ploughed into the land.

About 5 per cent of Zimbabwe's agricultural land is owned by multinationals, including Tiny Rowland's Lonrho company, the South African-based Anglo American Corporation and Unilever. The companies' land interests cover estates, forestry plantations and game and cattle ranches worth millions of pounds.

Parliament last week passed an amendment to the constitution which undermines the rights to property, allowing the government to fix its own price for confiscated land and barring owners from seeking redress in the courts.

The sources said Mr Mangwende also emphasised the government's intention to limit the number of farms owned by individuals, and the size of the farms and ownership by absentee landlords. He said the restrictions would also apply to senior party officials, the fastest growing group of landowners in the country.

Observers believe that the land policy is changing from one aimed at trying to break the cycle of poverty gripping millions of peasant farmers to an overtly political act to wrest land from the white population.

Port deal lets in food for Eritrea

By ANDREW LYCETT

THE Red Sea port of Massawa, which has been closed since it was captured from the Ethiopian government by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front in February, is to be reopened early next month to allow food shipments into drought-stricken Eritrea.

The reopening will follow negotiations, co-ordinated by the UN World Food Programme, between Ethiopia and the front, who have been fighting in Eritrea since the early 1970s. As a result of an agreement last month, the UN will run a shuttle service carrying 5,000 tonnes of food three times a month between Massawa and the port of Djibouti, along the Red Sea coast. The food will be distributed to areas held by both the front and the government on an equal basis.

Completion of the deal had been delayed as Ethiopia demanded the right to inspect the UN ship off Massawa. As a result of separate mediation between the two parties by the UN agency, Ethiopia now retains the right to make an inspection in Djibouti.

Massawa is said by the agency to be in "fairly good shape, except for the warehousing". A repair team will travel on the first ship, which will be for the agency's exclusive use.

This development comes at a time when the food situation throughout Ethiopia, particularly in the north, is as bad as it has ever been. Last month Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission confirmed that the country was

experiencing its second consecutive drought. It forecast that 4.28 million people would require food aid, almost half of them in Eritrea, and a further 20 per cent in neighbouring Tigre. It appealed for almost 850,000 tonnes of food to be donated.

The World Food Programme puts the requirement higher — at 941,000 tonnes. The front says that "over 78 per cent" of farmers in areas held by its forces will not be able to collect their harvest.

Militarily, the conflict between the Ethiopian government and the front is stalled.

The only important recent engagement was at sea, off the Eritrean coast, close to the strategic Dahlak Islands, where the Soviet Union maintains a base. Last month the front claimed to have sunk one Ethiopian ship and damaged another there. Since taking Massawa, the front has not been able to go on to take the provincial capital, Asmara.

• Africa's relief: The Save the Children Fund is sending three emergency relief experts to Liberia, making it the first British voluntary agency to work in the West African state, where the year-long conflict has caused almost one million people to flee their homes (Michael Knappe writes).

In Angola, signs that the government and the rebels are moving towards a settlement has made it possible for the fund, for the first time, to provide food for the starving via "safe corridors" through contested areas.

14 hours at that height



Exam nerves: mothers in Seoul praying for their children's success as about 662,000 Korean students sat tests for 146,346 university places

India and Pakistan wage proxy war behind smiles

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

BEHIND the talk of a new beginning in India-Pakistan relations now that there are new governments in Delhi and Islamabad, the two countries are intensifying what senior officials on both sides call a "proxy war".

In this unpromising atmosphere the two neighbours yesterday resumed "confidence-building" talks that had been interrupted by the fall of their governments. Neither side has much genuine interest in continuing the

increased support for separatists in Punjab and Kashmir, India was almost certainly involved in severe ethnic violence in the Pakistan province of Sind which helped bring down Benazir Bhutto.

In this unpromising atmosphere the two neighbours yesterday resumed "confidence-building" talks that had been interrupted by the fall of their governments. Neither side has much genuine interest in continuing the

dialogue, but the United States is twisting their arms. Pakistan wants to win back American aid, cut off because of suspicions about Islamabad's nuclear programme. And India will seek American support if it applies to the International Monetary Fund for a loan. In the meantime, the most that can be expected from the talks are some relatively minor confidence-building agreements.

The two sides may, for example, declare their intention not to violate each other's air space and to warn each other in advance about planned military exercises in sensitive border areas.

The two countries came close to war in the spring because of alleged Pakistani involvement in the Kashmir uprising, but severe economic hardship and the world's preoccupation with the Gulf have since removed the threat.

Menem to sell off more state concerns

From SIMON BOYES IN BUENOS AIRES

BUOYED by recent successes in selling the state airline and telephone company, the Argentine government has unveiled the second round of its privatisation programme, putting 13 firms up for sale next year.

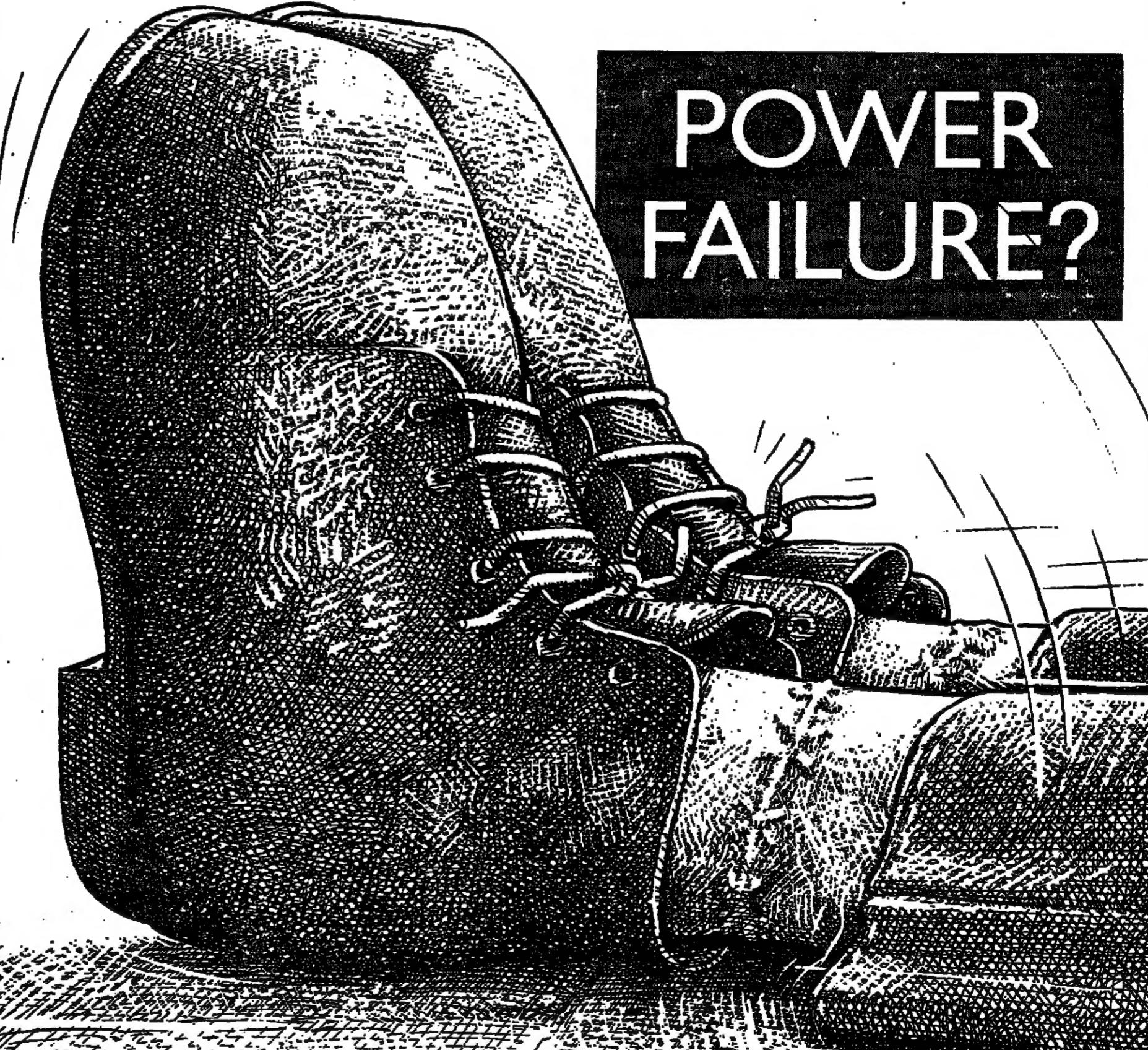
Most important of these are electricity companies, the waterworks and coalfields. But the government is also hoping to find buyers for the Buenos Aires Underground, the national mint and the national grains board.

A large number of oilfields, the ports administration, the state shipping line, several railway lines, and the national roads administration are also to be sold.

Roberto Dromi, the public works minister, said that, once this second stage was completed, a third round of sell-offs would involve the energy sector and include the Yacyretá hydro-electric dam that Argentina shares with Paraguay and which has been the subject of much environmental criticism.

Meanwhile, President Menem quashed rumours of a second military uprising, two weeks after an army rebellion in Buenos Aires left 13 dead. Radio reports earlier in the day had claimed that a cavalry regiment in the northern Entre Ríos province was about to be attacked by armoured cars.

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Save our ships —at a price

David Lipsey

Norman Lamont's first budget is expected to contain measures specifically designed to aid the British merchant shipping industry. Surely not, you may say, after 11 years of Thatcherism in which industrial subsidy was systematically dismantled as an instrument of policy. Yet this prediction can be made with some confidence, though neither the chancellor nor many of his officials, advisers or confidants have given the least hint that it will be so; not even when he met shipping representatives earlier this month.

The expectation is based on observing at close quarters the lobby being constructed in its favour under the audacious captaincy of Sir Jeffrey Sterling of P&O. The sight of this particular flotilla, under a full head of steam, bearing down on the poor, defenceless chancellor is sure to make that he may be blown out of the water.

If you remain sceptical, just imagine you were in Sir Jeffrey's position as president of the General Council of British Shipping, had his daring, and were determined to get your way. How best could you launch your campaign? Clearly you would want to enlist the aid of Britain's most eminent seafarers. Perhaps, you might think, you could somehow link it with Britain's best-loved ship.

You would then want to assemble a selection of the great and the good, including a high proportion of those you would expect to be sympathetic, so that any sceptics felt isolated. You would, of course, furnish them with a plausible argument or two but, above all, you would invest the whole operation with a romantic aura of sea, storm and salt-filled air. Add good food and wine, undreamt of in the average mess, and glory seems certain, be your case good, bad or indifferent.

The result of such thinking turned out, much hard work later, to be a lunch. Not any old lunch, but a lunch hosted by the Duke of Edinburgh (top seafarer, a Mountbatten and who could resist meeting him?) That dealt with best-loved ship: the Duke made available the Royal Yacht Britannia, just a bracing launch ride from Tower Hill pier to get the wind in the guests' lungs and the spirit of Conrad in their minds.

Who came? A distinguished and nautical company, led by Lord Callaghan (ex-petty officer RN and former prime minister) and Lord Whitelaw (fewer ships, it is true, in Cumbria, but a military man with a strong and noble attachment to vaguely-defined national interest). They were joined by the present transport secretary, his predecessor and the shipping minister, and by two of the most powerful Tory backbenchers, one of whom had seven years in the shipping industry. The First Sea Lord and the chairman of the Commons defence

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Exclusive! A reminder of the events of 1991 (Part One):

January 1: The BBC begins first showing of the new 51-part *Delta Smith* series. *Cooking for Christmas 1991*. "Planning well ahead can save so much bother," says Miss Smith, basting a preliminary chupulata. *Star* Cordelia Gummer resigns her post as John Gummer's official taster. "I want to spend less time with my family," she explains. 19th: Mrs Thatcher's resignation honours list includes an OBE for Her Majesty the Queen in recognition of her regular attendance at audiences with the prime minister.

February 3: Undaunted by charges of plagiarism over her last children's book, the Duchess of York publishes a brand new one, *Mary Poppins*. 22nd: Edwina Currie, frustrated by her absence from the public eye, gains publicity by announcing her intention to join the Labour party. 23rd: The Labour party announces its intention to join the Conservatives.

March 2: Following the furor over the Duchess of York's new children's book, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia steps in. "It was fate," he says. "If it had not been published in Britain, it would have been published somewhere else and at the same predestined moment." 16th: Jessie Jackson is photographed helping Cordelia Gummer off the plane as she flies from her family. 30th: The EC declares the Gummer a vegetable.

April 7: The most startling of many claims in the serialised extracts from Sir Norman Fowler's new autobiography is that he was once a senior cabinet minister under Mrs Thatcher. Politicians known to have been ministers at the time he mentions deny all memory of the man. 13th: Back in her father's clutches, Cordelia Gummer is photographed eating Mrs Emma Nicholson between two buns in an attempt to convince the general public that she is not poisonous. 20th: Allegations of child abuse in Hampstead will not die down. Social workers claim that the average Hampstead child abuses his parents on a regular basis by a flatly refusing to switch off the Ninja Turtles

video and b) taking not a scrap of interest in the delightful rhymes of A.A. Milne. Many Hampstead parents have already been taken into care for their own protection.

May 1: A.N. Wilson faces legal action following his interview in *The Spectator* with Mick Jagger. "Mr Jagger is too old to know exactly what was going on," his counsel claims. Jagger's alleged admissions in the interview that he "never took drugs" and that he "prefers a tune you can hum along to" will, says his counsel, "cause untold damage to the singer's reputation." 9th: In the absence of a two-hour awards programme on television for a full fortnight, the BBC announces the creation of the Award-Winners' Compre's Awards in which Mr Ned Sherrin presents an award to himself and is seen in cut-away smiling with a half-amused expression at his own acceptance speech.

June 4: Five Etonian Tory MPs are discovered in hiding on the Yorkshire moors. They are disguised as rustics, their hair dishevelled and straw dangling from their mouths, but their tailcoats give them away. Since the new year, Etonians have been barred from the Conservative party, though it is believed that some have managed to hang on at high levels of government. "I never went to Eton! My father was a bus conductor," screamed a distraught Nicholas Soames as he was led away, still protesting his innocence. 7th: Mr Neil Kinnock makes his first major speech on the ERM. "Let me make my position quite clear, plain, definite and unambiguous," he says. "I favour 45 ERM for singles and 33 ERM for LPs – and so does Glens." 12th: Perrier announces that it is to market Perrier Sans Eau, attractively packaged bottles of nothing at all. "The bubbles in our water have always proved popular," a spokesman says, "so we are proud to announce a bottle containing a single, family-sized bubble." Health experts everywhere welcome the product, advising that previous risks of contamination are now greatly reduced, and dieticians applaud the new bottle as free of all calories.

Sturdy individual or tame lapdog?

Robin Oakley, political editor, considers the role of Tory activists when men like Mates take an unpopular line

Divorce, drink or simple neglect of the constituency have generally explained the involuntary departure of Conservative MPs. Their personal lives rather than their political beliefs have seen them suffer, so the current spate of threatened "desecrations" in the Tory party of MPs who supported Michael Heseltine in the leadership comes something of a departure.

The event was off the record, and to breach that confidentiality would lead one to end up at Traitors' Gate, opposite where the yacht was moored. But the journalists were invited doubtless to spread the gist of what was said, which was the industry's strategic national importance. Ninety-five per cent of goods go by sea, say the shipping representatives (though whether this impressive figure is by tonne, tonne-mile, or value, let alone why it should matter whether it is carried by British ships or foreign ones was not vocalised). They complain that their foreign competitors are subsidised (which, as any student of the economic literature knows, makes not the slightest difference to the case against subsidising our own industry). If foreigners are prepared to sell us services cheaper, financing the difference from their taxpayers' pockets, bully for Britain!

The representatives of the navy, and without in any way divulging what position the Duke may or may not have taken, are worried about defence. They argue that if there is a war, they need a merchant navy to take the troops to it. The Indian government withdrew its sailors from the Camberra when she sailed to the Falklands, and if our ships are manned by other than true-Britons, who can say if they will be able to get to war?

The case with which ships can be hired in the modern world, whether to transport men or goods, seems not to have occurred to these plain sailors; nor whether it makes sense to support an entire merchant fleet just in case, every decade or two, a ship might come in handy.

The representatives of the Tory party are, of course, aware that they are now supposed to oppose subsidy. They raise the obvious objections, but then hum and haw and wonder if aid to this obnoxious special industry could not be ring-fenced, so it and only it would be entitled to the government's benefice.

As it happened, I had dined a couple of weeks previously with an entrepreneur who had made a fortune in shipping, selling up shortly before the current recession began. He is not planning to buy any more ships just now, but is quietly preparing himself. When the recession looks like ending, and the time is ripe, he will pile back into the industry with every expectation of making money. A bit of Treasury dosh would make him more enthusiastic, if Mr Lamont does indeed oblige. But the extra incentive that may result from Sir Jeffrey's supreme effort will be icing on his personal cake. Mr Lamont should save his resources for those who would be glad if they could afford bread.

More than 130 universities have issued edicts barring discussion of certain issues which constitute "verbal harassment". The University of Michigan's version prohibits "any behaviour, verbal or physical, that stigmatizes or victimizes an individual on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, handicap or Vietnam-era veteran status". The University of Connecticut issued a proclamation banning "inappropriately directed laughter". At Smith College, "lookism" – the belief that appearance indicates a person's value – is taboo. Students at Tulane University are told they must always bear in mind that "we are all the progeny of a racist and sexist society". At Pennsylvania University, a student was reprimanded for supporting the concept of individual rights when, she was told, the rights of the group were what mattered. (That argument was, of course, the favourite weapon used against dissidents of the Brezhnev fashion.)

The president of the University of Northern Colorado had to apologise for a "grossly insensitive" decision to invite a Reagan administration official, albeit a woman, to give a lecture. At New York University's law school, students and teachers refused to take part in a mock trial in which a

opposed the government over Suez and of Sir Anthony Meyer in Clwyd North West after he challenged Mrs Thatcher for party leadership last year. That is something of a simplification. The Nicolson case is remembered because he fought it publicly. A number of MPs whose views led their constituency association to threaten to start a candidate selection process have gone quietly.

Sometimes counter pressures have been brought to bear, as when Ian Macleod threatened that if the Surbiton Tories dumped the lefthand Nigel Fisher

Tory constituency associations are jealous of their independence, which is why party chairmen have shied off attempts to take similar powers to those enjoyed by the Labour hierarchy in vetting by-election candidates. In general they have adopted the "model rules" recommended by Central Office. These provide that if 50 people sign a petition calling for a special meeting of the association, that meeting must be held within a month. If the motion calls for a selection process to be started, the

constituency executive council will instruct the standing committee responsible to begin such a process, automatically opening up the competition to those other than the sitting MP, who usually secures automatic reappointment.

The current Tory troubles have several explanations. One is that the party's traditional deference to figures of authority has crumbled. The Tories, like the Labour party, have seen their politically active membership fall in recent years: those who remain tend to be the most politically committed, with strong fundamentalist views. The process has been intensified by Mrs Thatcher's leadership, which has turned the Conservatives into a far more ideological party.

Party activists tend to develop a particular attachment to the leader, as the foot-stomping on the last day of a party conference testifies. When Mrs Thatcher challenged Edward Heath the constituency parties were reportedly overwhelmingly against her. But the spasms of fury against those who had brought about Heath's defeat soon passed. It is likely to pass again on this occasion, although the spasm is that much

greater because Mrs Thatcher had been 11 years prime minister and 15 years party leader. She inspired particularly intense loyalty.

Mr Mates has seen off the hounds in his constituency by 396 votes to 193. If Mr Heseltine's chief lieutenant can survive, then probably so will the others. Chris Patten, the party chairman, has run around constituency bigwigs trying to lower the temperature and John Major has appealed publicly for no recriminations. Most associations where there have been complaints will content themselves with a rap over the knuckles for an MP who voted against their inclinations.

The flurry of activity over the leadership has in some cases given the opportunity to those disgruntled with their MP to question his future. Mr. Critchley, for example, has long had his troubles at Aldershot. And MPs who did not let their locals know what they were doing are likely to have a harder time than the others. Securing home base in politics is like driving on the Continent: it does not much matter what you do so long as you signal clearly in advance what you are planning.

The thought police closing off the American mind



Charles Bremner on the products of the Sixties who now impose their view of what is politically correct

lesbian mother sought custody of her child; any argument against her case would be detrimental to her rights, they said.

Beyond fat-prone academe, the PC sensibility has emerged in the wider world with a rise in what is known as tribal politics or the grievance industry. The result is a host of new euphemisms and self-censorship in deference to the supposed sensitivities of various "communities". In deference to the sensitivities of women, even establishment organs such as *The New York Times* are replacing the word "man" with "adult male". When *The Taming of the Shrew* was staged in Central Park this year, the text was bowdlerised to avoid offending women.

This outlook is, of course, shared with academics in the remnants of Britain's loony left. All, like the American professors enforcing the new purity, were nurtured in the 1960s. The difference is that in America, a country with a tendency to ideological enthusiasm, PCism has become part of a broader malaise, a factor in today's breakdown of social consensus. The most worrying aspect of this is fashionable contempt for the notion that America shares a common culture, built mainly on

the achievements of European ancestors. Just as the Soviets are rewriting their history, school administrators from New York to Los Angeles are embroiled in disputes about how to remove a "Eurocentric" bias from their textbooks.

Linked to this is the cult of self-esteem, the doctrine which holds that non-white pupils fail because they are not taught enough about the achievements of their race. According to the new fundamentalism, whose syllabicks are to be found in university humanities' departments, Western civilisation is a sorry tale of oppression in which white males enslaved women, the poor and non-whites. Lecturers ridicule the works of Milton, Socrates, Racine and all other members of that reviled species known generically as the Dead White European Male or Dwee. Proust and Alexander the Great have been partially exempted because of their homosexuality. The biggest PC villain at present is Christopher Columbus, the Dwee who visited imperialism on America.

Underpinning the PC approach is the school of post-structuralist criticism that views all writing as "text" to be decoded to reveal a political agenda, and which holds

truth and falsehood to be meaningless concepts. As quite a few critics have noted lately, Stalin and George Orwell got there first.

Applied PC manifests itself in the way black defendants have developed a street version of the doctrine, insisting they cannot be guilty of anything because they are victims of centuries of oppression, and any verdict to the contrary is invalid. This was the argument voiced by supporters of the two black teenagers convicted of raping the Central Park jogger – as it had been by lawyers during the trial.

The politically correct are not having things all their own way, however. Alan Bloom led the counter-attack with his best-seller, *The Closing of the American Mind*, in 1987. Sam Bellow stoked the fire by noting: "When the Zulus will be, we will read him." And this month John Searle, philosophy professor at Berkeley, dissected the fallacies of the PC creed in the *New York Review of Books*.

A counter-revolution is also being waged on American campuses by the National Association of Scholars, which accuses universities of abandoning education in

favour of political indoctrination. Commentators in the mainstream press have also been weighing in. *The Wall Street Journal* accused universities of trying to brainwash the young, and there are signs of a backlash in the broader world, particularly in the South, where figures such as Senator Jesse Helms are tapping reaction to the politics of sensitivity.

The most intriguing question is how did the PC culture become so powerful in a country dominated by conservative politics? George Will, the conservative commentator, sees it as a function of the collective guilt generated in the 1960s and from which Americans still suffer, despite a decade of Reaganism. Some look back to America's Puritan tradition and yet others think it is a way of trying to escape responsibility for crushing social troubles, manifested by a high murder rate and declining literacy.

David Rieff, a writer, argues in *Esquire* this month that ever since Benjamin Franklin's day, Americans have believed they can ignore the facts and legislate happiness. "There is no point in pretending as Americans so often do, that the world is not a tragic place," he says; however insensitive it may appear, the first step to recovery is to scrap the notion that groups count more than individuals.

As Russians like to say, it is no accident that Gorbachev truly broke with the past when he made the same point.



accommodation as a result of yesterday's announcement of additional shelter for the homeless has come just in time for those living in London's most famous cardboard city under Waterloo Bridge. They are to be moved on in the New Year when the bridge is closed for urgent repairs. Lambeth council is having to spend £200,000 to replace

With an eye, as always, for sympathetic publicity, the Iraqi authorities urged the politically astute chalk and cheese duo jointly to sponsor a peace mission to Europe. Brown declined, declaring: "War would break out in Scotland if I joined in anything with M. Le Pen." Undeterred, the Iraqi National Assembly sent a

further delegation urging him to think again. Brown suggested that they had confused Le Pen with Tony Benn, and says that judging by their red faces, he was right.

The British hostages, however, did not share his scruples. Brown told them there were 35 seats available as far as Istanbul on the plane taking Le Pen home – and they leapt at the chance.

Top table at last

A remarkable dinner was recently held in honour of Charles Webb, a man who has surely witnessed at first hand more of Britain's post-war political history than almost anyone alive. He was right next to the seat of power during the Suez affair and during the Falklands. He steered those deciding how best to cope with the Profumo scandal, and he shunted to and fro during the resignations of Nigel Lawson and Sir Geoffrey Howe.

But Webb's name will not be found in any of the memoirs and diaries of the period. Until his retirement, he was a Whitehall chauffeur for 44 years, most of them spent driving the cabinet secretary. He served six of them.

What secrets Webb learnt will go with him to the grave, for such men are the soul of discretion. Some of the history he witnessed and overheard, however, was relived over the port at his retirement dinner, attended by three cabinet secretaries: Sir Robin Butler, the current holder of the post, Lord Hunt and Lord Armstrong, his predecessors, plus Lady Trend, the widow of fourth. Not could the venue have been more appropriate. As Webb took his seat at the

table at Brooks's, the St James's club, his bosses past and present must surely have been reminded of the countless hours he spent working for them outside.

Shipshape logic

Commander Michael Saunders Watson, chairman of the British Library, has left his plush offices in Wardour Street and moved into a Portakabin on the building site in Euston that will eventually be the library's new home. "The site is just like an aircraft carrier in a dockyard," says Saunders Watson, who was formerly naval chief of staff in the Caribbean. He even likens the new library building to a ship – "all boiler rooms and pipes".

Life in a Portakabin is a long way, too, from the family seat at Rockingham Castle, Leicestershire, but Saunders Watson is prepared to put up with the lack of comfort. "At least I've got a boat under the contractors," he says. Yet even if the builders meet their completion deadline of 1996, his tribulations will soon begin anew. "We are accumulating five miles of new books a year," he says. "By 1998 we shall be full up. I am already starting to look for somewhere else to store them."

Michael Turner, former managing director of Associated Book Publishers, has just received a response from a man in Nigeria to an advertisement in *The Bookseller* for an "enterprising manager". "I shall be grateful if you can please consider this application if the post is still vacant," he wrote in a letter dated October 29, 1990. Alas, it is not. The advert appeared in December 1989.

Ershad taken from official residence to house arrest

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DHAKA

HUSSAIN Ershad, ousted as president of Bangladesh last week, was ordered out of his official residence inside a military garrison yesterday and placed under house arrest in a Dhaka mansion with his wife and five-year-old son.

The huge house, directly opposite the British High Commission in the diplomatic enclave of Gulshan, was surrounded by police who set up tents in the garden. The building was once the official residence of the British High Commissioner.

Mr Ershad, aged 60, his wife Raushan, aged 55, and their son Shad were escorted by police out of the garrison and driven in a long convoy of police vehicles to the house. Witnesses said that they looked distressed.

Opposition leaders have been demanding for days that Mr Ershad be ordered out of the official residence. Earlier yesterday, students held demonstrations demanding his

\$1m bounty renewed for Rushdie

Nicosia — An Iranian charity organization repeated its \$1 million (£515,000) offer for the head of Salman Rushdie, the British author, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

The 15th of Khordad Foundation, which offered the reward soon after the late Ayatollah Khomeini called for Mr Rushdie's head in 1988, said that its bounty was still available. Khomeini is alleged that Mr Rushdie, who went into hiding, had defamed Islam in his novel, *The Satanic Verses*. (AP)

Reporter freed

Medellin — Colombian cocaine barons freed Hera Buss, a German journalist, after he spent more than three months in captivity. (Reuters)

Whales drown

Nyannu Port, Massachusetts — Some 45 stranded pilot whales which beached on a nearby island were either drowning as the tide rose or were being given a lethal injection by would-be rescuers who wanted to end their suffering. (AFP)

Fatal jump

Auckland — Jason John Collett, aged 19, who was in charge of an amusement park bungee jump in New Zealand that caused the death of a man, was sentenced to 200 hours' community service after being convicted of manslaughter. (AP)

Woman governor
Wellington — The former mayor of Auckland, Dame Celia Fizard, aged 59, was sworn in as the first woman governor-general of New Zealand. (Reuters)

Attack on Seoul superpower links

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEOUL

NORTH Korea said yesterday that peace on the bitterly divided Korean peninsula had to be achieved without interference from outsiders, pointing indirectly to South Korea's links with the United States and the Soviet Union.

"We only wonder when this dependence on outside forces and flunkist way of thinking, impairing national dignity and interests, will disappear," said Yon Hyong Muk, the North Korean prime minister.

"If we depend upon foreign forces, we cannot but be subjected to their interference, cannot but be worried about their attitude," he declared.

Mr Yon's comments came at the opening of the third round of talks since September between the prime ministers of the two Koreas on easing the political and military tensions which divide them.

The opening-day session lasted about two hours.

President Roh of South Korea flies to Moscow today for a meeting with President Gorbachev. The Soviet Union, a long-time ally of the communist North, established diplomatic relations with Seoul two months ago and Mr Roh's trip has been bitterly criticized by the



Side by side: Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, addressing a rally in Tokoza yesterday, as Adriaan Vlok, the law and order minister, listens intently

Zulus force Mandela to retreat from township

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, yesterday visiting some of the Johannesburg black township areas worst affected by recent faction violence, was confronted by a mob of angry Zulus who swore at him, attacked an African National Congress car and forced his peace mission of political and church leaders to retreat in disarray.

The incident occurred as the delegation, led by the ANC's deputy president, approached a "workers' hostel" in Tokoza, where more than 80 people have been killed this week in clashes between Zulu members of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Xhosa residents who broadly support the ANC. About a hundred Zulu men and women, some brandishing crude weapons and placards chanted "Away, get out Mandela". As armed riot police converged on the scene, a screaming woman struck a car flying an ANC flag with a metal pipe. Mr Mandela, visibly shaken, was hustled away by aides.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, on a separate tour of the township, blamed the ANC for the continuing strike. Addressing about 2,000 armed supporters he claimed that the ANC had provoked the violence by waging a campaign against the KwaZulu tribal homeland, of

which he is chief minister.

The nature of the visits highlighted the antagonism between the two leaders and their political maneuvering. Chief Buthelezi, after saying he could not join the church mission because of other commitments, surprised observers by turning up with Adriaan Vlok, the law and order minister.

ANC opposition to direct talks between Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi, and the latter's refusal to attend larger peace forums, have compromised their respective calls for an end to the violence. The ANC said yesterday that there were no plans for the two to meet before the new year.

Of more immediate concern to ANC activists is the return from 30 years' exile of Oliver Tambo, their ailing president, who is expected to be given a hero's welcome when he arrives in South Africa today. Mr Tambo, aged 73, who is recovering from a stroke, will address the opening session of a crucial ANC conference near Johannesburg tomorrow, which will debate strategy for forthcoming negotiations with the government on constitutional relations.

ANC officials had planned to mobilise tens of thousands of supporters at Jan Smuts international airport, but the

government has asked them for security reasons to restrict the welcoming party to 60. Mr Tambo, who has been partially paralysed by his illness, is expected to spend three weeks in South Africa before returning to London for more treatment.

He will be given a standing ovation by more than 1,500 delegates to the consultative conference, the first of its kind in South Africa since the ANC was banned in 1959, but unity on political issues is less likely. After almost a year of political freedom, the organisation has failed to attract the mass support it expected and is riven by internal divisions on how to respond to the government's reform initiatives.

While Mr Mandela's continued leadership is assured, there is growing dissatisfaction among exiles and militant young people demanding mass protest action to galvanise support and hasten the transfer of power to the black majority.

The ANC had originally intended to hold a national conference which would have reshuffled the leadership, but this has been postponed until next June on the ground that many members are still in prison or in exile.

Leading article, page 15

DON'T FORGET THE LAST POSTING DATES.



2ND CLASS
17TH DECEMBER.

1ST CLASS
19TH DECEMBER

Royal Mail

لماضي العاشر



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 18: The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Headquarters Foot Guards at Wellington Barracks.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by Major-General Simon Cooper (Major-General Commanding London Division), Colonel Sir Brian Berticot, Bt, (Colonel Foot Guards) and Lieutenant-Colonel Julian Lancaster (Chief of Staff).

Having toured the Headquarters, The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, honoured Lieutenant-Colonel L.H. Michael (Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards) with her presence at luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir Kenneth Scott and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Right Hon. John Major, M.P. (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, attended the meeting of the International Trustees at Buckingham Palace this afternoon.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon. Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 18: The Prince Edward this morning attended a reception given by Municipal General Insurance Limited at Old Queen Street, London SW1 in support of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 18: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded the Lady Elizabeth Bassett as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 18: The Prince Edward arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt this afternoon from Paris, France.

Mr. Peter Westmacott and Mr. Richard Arbiter were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, presented the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers' Duke of Cornwall Award for 1990 to the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly, London W1.

Mr. David Landale was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Patron, The National Trust: 1990 St. Mungo Appeal for Trees, held a reception at Kensington Palace.

The Princess of Wales, accompanied by Mr. John Hughes (Chairman) at Kensington Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, today attended a Meeting of the Central Executive Committee, held at the Association of Accounting Technicians, 154 Clerkenwell Road.

Her Royal Highness was present this evening at "Joy to the World" held at the Royal Hall in aid of Children's Charities.

Lady Aird was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST. JAMES'S PALACE
December 18: The Duchess of Kent, Patron of The Samaritans, this evening attended the annual Christmas Celebration at Westminster Cathedral, London SW1.

Mrs Peter Wilmot-Sitwell was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, will attend receptions at St James's Palace at 11.30 and 4.00 for young people who have reached the gold standard.

The Duchess of York will present the Children of Courage awards in Westminster Abbey at 10.55.

The Duke of Kent will attend the London Fire Brigade's annual service of Christmas carols in St Paul's Cathedral at 6.35.

New Riba chief aims for better public image

By CHARLES KNEVITT
ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE first priority of Richard MacCormac, the next president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, will be to "build bridges" between the profession and the public. Mr MacCormac, who was elected on Monday after a record poll of the institute's 28,000 members, will take up his two-year term in July.

In his first interview since he beat the official Riba candidate into third place, Mr MacCormac said: "I want to make it clear that there are inventive and sensitive architects around."

He intends to emphasise consensus in place of the confrontation which exists at present, and bring an end to the "false dichotomies" in the architectural debate. There is a watershed of opinion about architecture and the environment. The backlash against

buildings of the 1960s and 1970s has exhausted itself, we should be confident about the quality of what we do now."

His victory could be interpreted as a "protest vote", he said, hinting that architects had "tired of" the strident position adopted by his immediate predecessor, especially in their dealings with the Prince of Wales, who has prompted renewed public interest in architecture.

Michael Hopkins, Edward Cullinan, Eva Jiricna and John Outram are among his favourite architects and he enjoys some buildings by Sir Denys Lasdun. Their work represents a "search for authenticity", through a variety of approaches, a belief in quality and craftsmanship and attention to detail, rather than the "cobbled together" clichés of post-modernism.

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'Women are too caring to make good surgeons'

The top jobs in hospital medicine are a male preserve. Anthea Gerrie finds out why

The increase in NHS consultancy posts announced last Monday may well relieve pressure on junior doctors, but it is unlikely to make much impact on the gender inequality in British hospital medicine. What women doctors want is equal opportunity for training and promotion in an environment that currently permits scandalously few to reach consultant level.

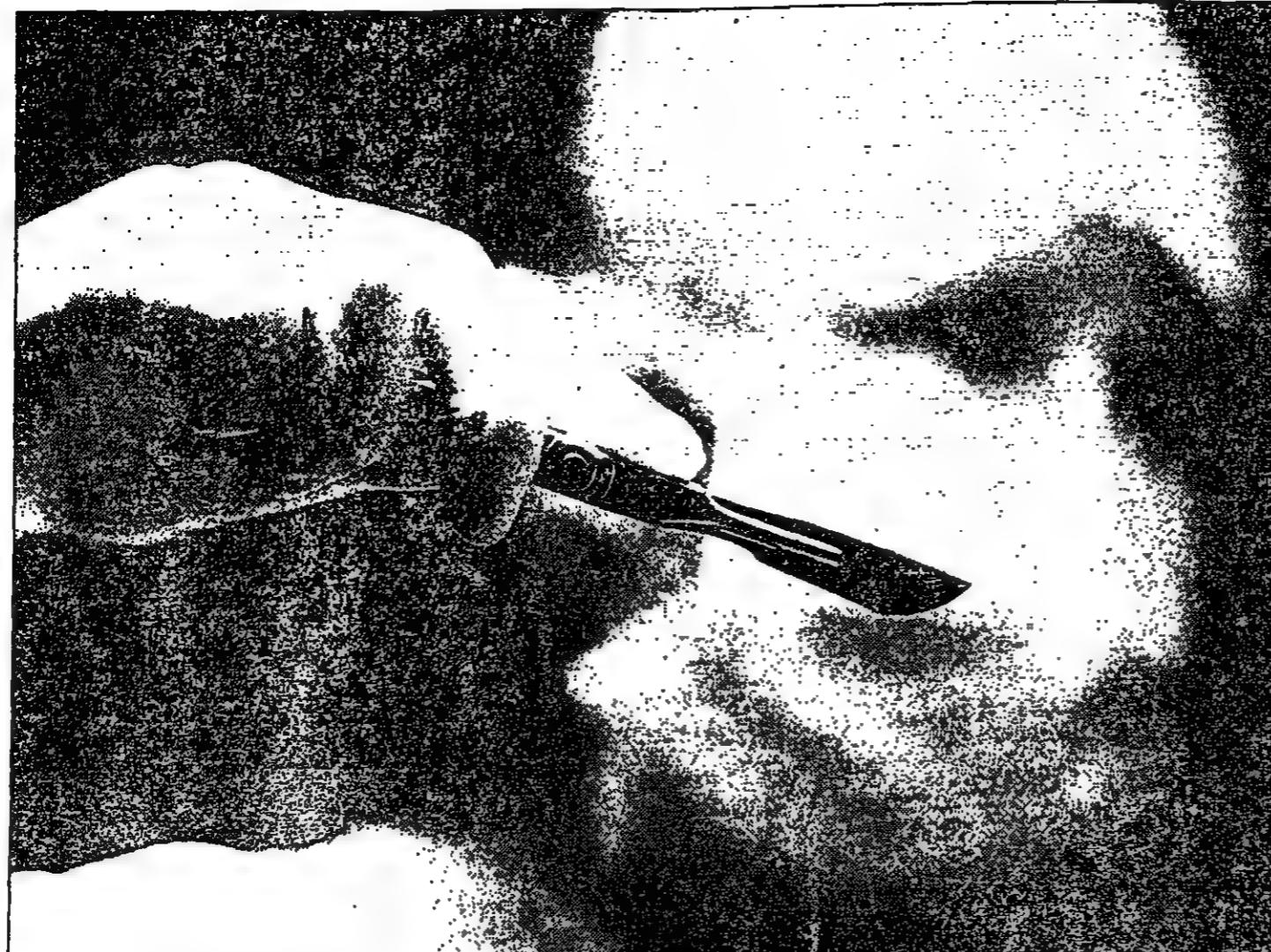
Kate Fussell, who retired last week, was one of just 11 women consultant general surgeons in the NHS in England and Wales — a speciality in which women make up no more than 1 per cent. Even in obstetrics and gynaecology, the proportion of female consultants is less than 15 per cent, and the average across all specialities is 12.5 per cent. Women turn up at the top in significant numbers only in traditionally under-supplied areas such as anaesthetics, radiology and psychogeriatrics, where they form 20-25 per cent of the total.

As a doctor and as the chairman of the National Alliance of Women's Organisations, Miss Fussell is convinced this inequality matters deeply, particularly to the patients. "There are many women who would prefer to consult another woman, especially when it comes to the traumatic issue of breast surgery. But surgery is one of the last bastions of macho medicine, and the prejudice which was rife when I was struggling to the top 20 years ago has not yet been fully eradicated."

Could it be that women are not physically equipped to be surgeons? That is the view of Frank Ellis, a consultant general surgeon at Guy's hospital, one of several London teaching hospitals which refused to admit women students until 1947, when the Labour government threatened to revoke their grants.

"Women don't have the stamina for it," he says. "They are too caring to make good surgeons. When it comes to making life or death decisions, women take all the peripheries on board and ultimately get their knickers in a twist. They also lack the aggression to harness the necessary resources in a competitive environment — theatre time, for example. And surgery is no place for a career break — frankly, you get rusty when you have been gone more than three months."

While Mr Ellis's views may be



Women at the cutting edge of a career scandal: even in obstetrics and gynaecology, they form only 15 per cent of consultants

echoed by male colleagues in surgery, they are angrily rejected by the Medical Women's Federation, whose president, Dr Elizabeth Shaw, says: "Women have more stamping than men. And they have dexterous fingers which equip them to be fine surgeons."

The surgeon who thinks there is no room for women in an operating theatre is the kind who doesn't believe in talking to his patients. We know that what the patients want is more sensitivity at the bedside: women may well be more caring than men, but it is a plus, not a minus."

Medical feminists are quick to quote Dr Margaret Gilchuck as a shining example of what women can bring to surgery. A super-efficient worker, she is one of very few consultants with no waiting list. A colleague at St Charles hospital, west London, says: "She's a dynamo; her lunch hour consists of walking with a sandwich from one appointment to the next, but she gets through the list. She also has four children that she manages to see enough of. She

has always been more concerned with getting the work done than spending time on politics or polishing up her image."

Dr Gilchuck had her children in rapid succession after achieving consultancy status — the only way a woman can hope to get on in medicine, says Dr Shaw. "Junior doctors work up to 90 hours a week, which makes it virtually impossible to juggle a family, and part-timers find it exceedingly hard to get the training to make it to consultant."

The average age of appointment is 37 — and that is among doctors who have been going at it full-time for up to 15 years. Women doctors know it is inadvisable to wait so long before starting a family, so many opt for clinical assistant jobs, which throw them off the career path."

The health department has made efforts to encourage women doctors to stay on the promotion ladder by setting aside a number of part-time registrar posts for

doctors with domestic commitments, but the theoretical right to these jobs, and getting them in practice, are two different things, as Dr Julie Parker discovered.

"The regional health authority has the money — but it is up to the districts within the region to apply for their share. They are often unwilling to do so, and as an unemployed woman at home with a baby you can feel powerless to press your case. It often comes down to getting sympathetic male colleagues to lobby on your behalf."

Dr Parker is one of four pairs of women working in job-share consultancies in psychiatry around the country, which she says has considerable political advantages over simply working as a part-time consultant.

The part-timer has a hard time getting taken seriously — she is considered a slightly joke extra who often gets marginalised and excluded from strategy and policy decisions, something the two of us as a team manage to avoid." The shared psychiatric consultancy at Barrow hospital, near Bristol, is

means Dr Parker works a 30-hour week, compared with 50 hours or more as a full-timer.

Dr Shaw says although job-sharing women are unlikely to get much of a hearing in areas such as surgery, an increase in the number of consultancy posts could help draw women to the top if they were scattered evenly among the specialities. "But if the new consultancies are concentrated in surgery and general medicine — the areas of greatest inequality and deepest entrenchment of attitudes — it won't help them much."

What has helped most of all, she says, is that "many of the old-timers now have daughters practising medicine, and that is slowly causing a shift in their attitudes." The slow emergence of "new men" in the ranks is also welcome. "Many of the younger consultants are starting to refuse to work at night, when management meetings traditionally start. They are insisting on spending more time with their families — and their stance will benefit the women who join the club."

The ultimate free supplement: MEN — a user's guide (you'll be mad if you miss it)

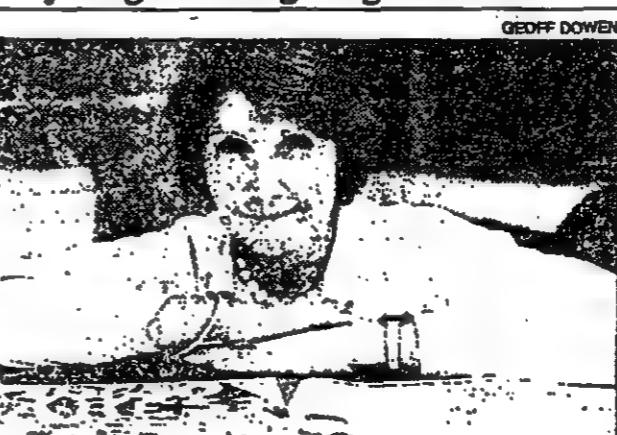


OUT NOW

New Woman. You can't be one without it.

Agony aunt to children in care

A magazine offering help to unhappy youngsters is fighting for survival



Readers' rights: Tory Laingland preaches self-help

ABOUT 85,000 youngsters, from babies to 19-year-olds, are in care in the United Kingdom. Some even have children of their own. They are looked after by 133 different local authorities, but while many get top quality care, some suffer indifference, neglect and even abuse.

Reaching out to these children and telling them their rights has become the mission of a social worker, Tory Laingland. Her magazine *Who Cares?*, distributed via local authorities, preaches self-help in dealing with depression, anger or rejection.

An Oxford graduate in French, Mrs Laingland began her career as a film script reader, but then trained as a social worker at the London School of Economics. Later, working for Westminster council, she realised the enormity of the social worker's task. "I became disheartened by my inability to look after the young people who had been taken into care, in the way that a good parent could and should," she says.

Mrs Laingland decided to look at the problems facing children in care, and in 1979 she organised an open day at Westminster City Hall. The children who came said they

wanted more information about their rights, and that led her to start the magazine.

She talked to a designer,

Kevin Walker, then working for *Eagle* comic, who advised

her to commission a photo

story with children in care as her models. He also offered to

design the magazine and take

the photographs, which he still does.

The six-page photo story

remains the heart of *Who*

Cares?

The theme of the story

decided by a committee of

children, themselves in care,

and deals with subjects such as

running away, being moved

from home to home, and sex

abuse. The "Did You Know?"

column deals with rights and

benefits, and the letters col-

umn gives moving evidence of

the plight of some of its

readers. After each letter the

editor adds a reply, ending

"... we'd like you to keep in

touch in case we can help". In 1987 the magazine moved into the offices of the National Children's Bureau in Islington, north London, but as it gathered momentum it became more costly, and was threatened with closure.

Then just when the project seemed doomed, through the charity Retired Executives Action, Clearing House Mrs Laingland found Nigel French, who runs his own marketing company.

MR FRENCH has drawn up plans to put the magazine on a proper business footing, and also to start a telephone helpline for children in care (the magazine already gets hundreds of calls from adults and children seeking advice).

Who Cares? sells 8,000 copies every quarter, but the new proposals would cost £125,000 a year. However, Mrs Laingland and Mr French are determined to raise the money so the magazine can continue to bring comfort to young people in care.

GERALDINE RANSON
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

• *Who Cares?*, c/o National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE (01-278 9441).

Street, London W1H 4DH. telephone 071-935 0185) would be appreciated.

Kid's stuff

WHY fight your way into the department stores when a swift telephone call to a specialist children's shop such as Dragons of Walton Street in London (071-589 3795) can still secure the perfect personalised present for the children on your list. Dragons, which has furnished several royal nurseries, offers everything from painted personalised hairbrushes (real bristle, of course, at £25.50) to rustic-seated chairs decorated with Beatrix Potter characters or soldiers (£55.20-£57.50). Hand-painted desks (from £150 to £800) can also be personalised. Many cheaper gifts such as Dragon beanbags (£12.75) and stocking-filers such as bathplugs (£5.75) are still available. Postage and delivery by arrangement.

All stressed out and ready to play

The shops are full of gimmicky gadgets to relieve frustration — but is the joke on us?

As the recession bites into retailers' Christmas profits, one non-traditional gift area is booming. Virtually every department store and gift shop in the country has a display of stocking fillers for the stress-obsessed, which range from the simple to the simply awful.

These by-products of a stressed-out society include Teletubbies bosses (or traffic wardens and other hate figures), who can be dismembered with the satisfying sound of ripping Velcro (£14.99). "When you're stressed out to the max, take out your frustrations by ripping the head, arms and legs of this beady-eyed bozo", the box prescribes. There are Squeeze Relief faces which can be contorted as "a fun and harmless way to get relief from frustration, agitation, irritation and aggravation" (£4.95). Electronic screaming balls (£6.50) emit a hollow howl like a soul in torment when touched ("a prescription for stress ... for the relief of your paranoid delusions").

The Wham-O inflatable punching bag costs £8.95, the Frustration Brick, which can be hurled across a room without causing any harm, is just £2.99, and the Stress Release Baseball, which emits the sound of breaking glass when thrown, is £9.95.

The Whacko (£24.95) is a fury cocktail which will crisp quietly on your desk until you hammer it on the head, when it squeals and runs about. Poor Mr X (£9.95) cries "Oh, oh, forgive me please" when you hit him on the head with a hammer. The Freud Talking Pillow (£14.95) promises "Press me to relieve your worry so I can worry and fuss out loud". Smoochables (£4.99) come in the shape of mothers-in-law, bosses, and so on, and can be squeezed almost out of recognition, and the Sammy Slam Me Stressometer (£19.99) with "thump plunger" and bell is exactly how it sounds.

The Buzzle Stress-Tester (£7.95) is an updated desk version of the old steady-hand test, and can be used in conjunction with various "biofeedback" gadgets such as Biobots, adhesive dots which stick to the fingers and supposedly show you how relaxed you are by measuring circulation. Biobots cost £3.75 for 25 from Stresswise, PO Box 5, Congleton, Cheshire.

Stress experts have mixed feelings about the devices. Dr Malcolm Carruthers is a stress specialist who works at the Maudsley hospital in south London as well as in

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Friday, January 19, 1991, will be the last day to receive your order.

For more information, contact 01-278 9441.

For more information

GALLERIES: WALES

A happy and glorious chance for the public

Paintings from the royal collection at Windsor Castle, on show in Cardiff, reviewed by Andrew Gibbon Williams

Not even the most ardent monarchist could extol the present reign as a golden age for a royal artistic patronage. Where the Queen has excelled, however, is in the accessibility she has generously allowed to the works in the collections in her possession. For those who suspect that the best wine of our great royal collections is reserved for private consumption, then a visit to the National Museum of Wales is required. On show is a collection of 60 pictures, most of which hang in the Grand Corridor at Windsor Castle and have been sent on holiday while renovations take place there. These are the works the coach-parties do not get to see.

The presence of Queen Victoria's least favourite uncle, George IV, looms large. Not only does he feature from cradle to horseback, but he also commisstoned or purchased many of the pictures. Finally, once his mentally unsound but more respectable father departed the scene, he had Wyatville design the neo-Gothic Grand Corridor (if every other grand house in England had a long gallery, why should not Windsor?) and summoned the sculptor Chantrey and his Scottish painter Wilkie to advise on the hanging.

If the mark left by George III on the royal collections is less striking than that of his errant elder son, it is, nevertheless, equally indelible. His acquisition in 1762 of the

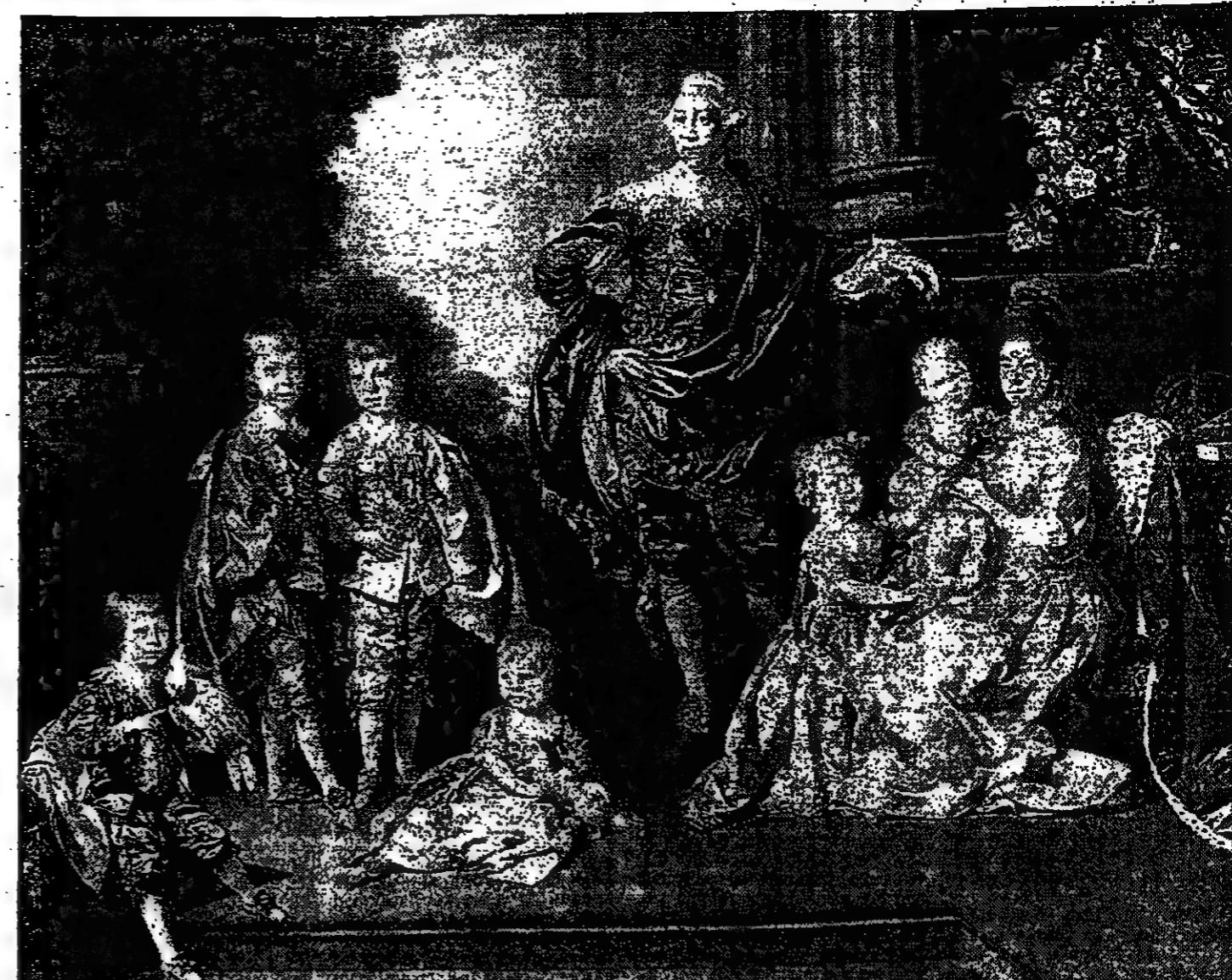
remarkable collection assembled by Consul Smith in Venice ensured Canaletto's high-standing in England. There are several wonderful views here; they would certainly make photographs unnecessary for reconstruction purposes, were the pessimists to be proved right and La Serenissima to sink into her lagoon. But there are also views of Roman triumphal arches and magnificent river-scapes of the Thames, which serve as reminders that Canaletto's subjects were not exclusively Venetian.

Although George III would brook no official painter but the Scot, Allan Ramsay, his German-born Queen, Charlotte, patronised her countryman Johann Zoffany. And it is Zoffany's most finely crafted conversation pieces, rather than in the portraits by his more fated English contemporaries Reynolds and Gainsborough, that the image of formal domesticity which our present royal family has so steadfastly cultivated, first appears. There are dogs and children

everywhere. In one picture the infant Prince of Wales (Priam's passion for dressing up obviously started early) is got up as Telemachus, his brother as a Turk, and both little boys, with dog, cling to their mother's fabulously painted satin skirts. In another, the unescorted princes play with a small spaniel against a backdrop of Van Dycks.

The 17th-century master's double portrait of Charles II's heir and brother is an intentional dynastic prop. Indeed there is ample evidence of the Hanoverians' sense of insecurity. The royal children not only fondle pets and toys but ostentatiously sport the great British orders of the Garter, Bath and Thistle. Zoffany's most formal full family group is, in fact, a remake in period costume of a Van Dyck treatment of the martyr king and his family. Horace Walpole thought it ridiculous.

Both Gainsborough and Lawrence are well represented, the former unfortunately by a group which substantiates his not wholly deserved reputation as a prettier and flatterer. There can be few more glamorous depictions of 18th-century femininity than that in "George III and His Three Eldest Daughters" - all full, flounces and feathered brushwork. Doubtless, the subjects were well pleased, but the modern viewer longs for a dash of Goya's frankness, which might have infused the sweet blandness of their expressions with some character.



Commissioned by the German-born queen: "George III, Queen Charlotte and their six eldest children", 1770, by Johann Zoffany

Lawrence is an altogether bouncier, more robust painter, perfectly attuned to the down-to-earth personae of his greatest patron, George IV. It is a dazzling technique which, like Raeburn's, which he admired, can be employed as tellingly on paunchy, masculine old age, as on blushing female youth. The Prince Regent liked to have his favourites around him. Lord

Thurlow, who helped relieve him of his unopposed wife, sits four-square, emanating legal authority. The Duke of Wellington's brother, Richard Wellesley, appears to fit perfectly the description of him by the king: "A Spanish grande grafted on an Irish potato". No English painter has ever bettered Lawrence's expertise in rendering textures.

Then there are the equestrian

pictures of Stubbs, with which the collection is rich. It was George IV, who made racing the sport of kings. As Prince of Wales, not surprisingly, he commissioned the finest animal painter in the land to commemorate his favourites: an intriguing pre-echo of our current royal family's equine enthusiasm.

Although, for security reasons, the customary cordons are in place at Cardiff, preventing really close examination of the pictures, the opportunity to see these royal and national treasures should not lightly be missed.

The Royal Collection: Paintings from Windsor Castle is at the National Museum of Wales (0222 397951) until February 24.

VIOLIN COMPETITION: HELSINKI

Winter oddities

The Sibelius International Violin Competition happens at an inopportune time of year, when Helsinki sees little real daylight and when winds from the east chill the marrow of the bones. But though the prizes on offer are modest, it maintains its prestige in a paradoxical world where activity has become so intense that competitions have become competitors for the best candidates but where the importance accorded to winning and losing is ridiculously inflated.

Partly that prestige has something to do with the Sibelius Competition's rarity value, for the competition still happens only once every five years. Within Finland, of course, it enjoys unremitting media attention. Substantial newspaper articles appear every day, and television crews roam the spacious, elegant foyer of Finlandia Hall in search of a comment from the public.

Not all of the finalists demonstrated the technical excellence expected in the two concertos each had to play - the Sibelius, and one chosen from a short, rather conservative list - with the efficient Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and the rather less reliable Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. For instance, a place was presumably given to the 20-year-old Chinese violinist, Jin Hui, only to offer him experience. Before his performance of the Sibelius, he had never previously played with an orchestra. To make him do so with only 75 minutes of rehearsal was to court the disaster that eventually occurred, and it was greatly to his credit that he returned later in the week and gave a more solid, though often curiously inflected, reading of the Tchaikovsky.

The leader of the pack turned out to be the 29-year-old Romanian, Cristina Anghelescu, who was given second prize. The first prize was not awarded: this is an increasingly common phenomenon again, aimed at maintaining a competition's kudos. Anghelescu certainly deserved her high ranking; there was a passion about her style which many other finalists lacked, and the sound had a mature richness though her tone-colours were varied and she played imaginatively.

Crucially, her technique enabled her to negotiate those telling virtuoso passages in the finale of the Sibelius Concerto more con-

fidently and accurately than many. The prize for the best performance of the Sibelius could well have gone to her. Instead, it was also not awarded.

I was not in Helsinki for the first two stages of the competition, but to my mind it was little short of scandalous that the 20-year-old Soviet violinist Arkadi Gutnikov was placed no higher than seventh. By choosing as his optional work the Tchaikovsky Concerto, he should have lost one or two points, but three other finalists, Anghelescu included, also went for this staggeringly original option. Three more opted for the Brahms Concerto, a work whose substance helps it survive such repetition. Of all the finalists, it was Gutnikov who showed the best combination of consistency, technical reliability, quality of sound and sheer imagination.

The placing of Gutnikov lower than the Icelandic violinist Sigrun Eivaldsdóttir and the Japanese Akiko Tanaka, joint third prize-winners, seemed to me ridiculous. Eivaldsdóttir experienced some problems with intonation and quality of sound in both of her concertos, and although Tanaka played with near-immaculate polish, her phrasing was unimaginatively smooth, her personality bland. In her Tchaikovsky it was as if her first aim were not to offend the jury by daring to do anything.

Fourth place went to a 16-year-old Finn, Jaakko Kuusisto, who still has some work to do on the power and richness of his sound but who exudes individuality and sound musicianship. He showed a remarkable structural grasp in the Brahms concerto. His placing was popular with the audience, but it seemed harsh on the Pole, Piotr Miliwski, who had all the assets of Kuusisto except extreme youth (he already 31), and the additional benefits of a mature sound, a greater certainty of intent and the courage to play Prokofiev - the First Concerto - rather than Brahms or Tchaikovsky.

Another Finn, Pekka Kauppinen, was the dark horse of the finals. He acquitted himself well enough, though his rather dour performances seemed to betray a touch of the understandable malaise which affects this country at this time of year.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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CHRISTMAS BOOKS

Not many people wanted to know that

Last-minute presents? Chris Peachment lists ideas for the desperate

Many years ago, a man confided in me that he had never managed to finish a book in his life. Not unusual in a country where a substantial percentage of households never buy a single book from one year to the next; and where by far the largest amount of book-buying is indulgence in the likes of the latest Wilbur Smith at Gatwick airport. This man, however, was the head of a publishing company. He had realised early in life that a convenient marriage can spare a man years of honest labour. "Is that why?" I asked him, "most of the books you publish are books of lists?" His catalogue was composed of books which tell you what to do with the children at weekends, or quantify great travel catastrophes. "They are easy to write," he replied, smirking, "and when I sell them, I am sure I could telephone each publisher of the books below and get the same reply. With the added rider, 'especially at Christmas'."

Smallest of the bunch, weighing in at a mere 57 pages, fine for the smallest stocking, is *Jewish Proverbs* (Robert Hale, £3.95), uncredited to any compiler but with illustrations by Brenda Rae Uno. You will be pleased to know that "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree" and that "A man surrounded by dwarfs looks like a giant". My own favourite is "So many hymns" and so few anecdotes: I tried that one out on a couple of Jewish friends; they were none the wiser. "An owl in a sack bothers no man" is not in here. But it was a literary competition some years ago for the most famous proverb.

The Entries, according to the introduction to *Nigel Dempster's Quotations Book* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15), "unleashed the unscrupulous on the unsuspecting". I'll say it did. This book is 13 quid, and there's not a single address in it. All the less while socialites who populate the daily round of the average diarist are in here, but, not even a telephone number is appended to each entry. It was pleasant to learn that Sir Kingsley Amis took several days to find his second wife's farewell note. But everybody knows half a dozen better stories about the man. Jeffrey Archer puts his own worth at £25 million, which does raise the old concern about the difference between price and worth. Jonathan Routh could only successfully woo Oiga Deterding after he had given her a bath in Deniol. And she choked to death on a piece of steak at midnight, New Year's Eve 1978. I wish I could remember all this sort of stuff just this thing to break the ice at parties.

In the wake of the recent revelations of her husband's infidelity, Jilly Cooper may well be regretting the inclusion of her story in *Sex Dog Stories*, edited by Gerald Durrell (Michael O'Mara, £10.95). It dwells at some length on dogs' uncanny ability at sensing the return of their master, whatever the time of day. Bad luck on the poohs that they lack an opposable thumb, and cannot therefore lurk behind the door



Visionaries rewarded

LONDON Weekend Television has announced the winners of its "Plays on Stage" scheme, which provides funds for theatre companies to mount new productions on the basis of proposals they submit. They are the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, for a staging of *The Bondagers* by Sue Glover; the Gate Theatre Club, for *Damned for Despair* by the 17th-century Spanish playwright Tirso de Molina (the same company has just mounted another of Molina's plays, *Don Gil of the Green Brches*, reviewed in these pages yesterday); and the Northumberland Theatre Company, for *These Things do Happen* by Stewart Home.

BRIEFING

receive £18,000, £16,000 and £14,000 respectively.

Buckets of blood

Playing its 1,000th performance tonight: *Blood Brothers*, the Willy Russell musical set in Liverpool and charting the lives of twins separated at birth. In eight years the piece has crossed three stages. It began at the Liverpool Playhouse, transferred to the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, and has been playing at the Albery since 1988.

Turner scrutinised

TWO new Turner Scholars have been appointed by the Tate Gallery, the home of 300 Turner oils and more than 20,000 of his drawings and watercolours. Muriel Davies will investigate

the tree" and that "A man surrounded by dwarfs looks like a giant". My own favourite is "So many hymns" and so few anecdotes: I tried that one out on a couple of Jewish friends; they were none the wiser. "An owl in a sack bothers no man" is not in here. But it was a literary competition some years ago for the most famous proverb.

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in the "Perspective" lectures he gave at the Royal Academy between 1811 and 1828, and Dr Jan Piggott will study the vignettes engravings based on Turner and used to illustrate literature. Sponsorship of the Turner scholarships, which were established in 1988, comes from Volkswagen. The work of both scholars is expected, in time, to lead to exhibitions and catalogues.

Last chance

Cost fan naze is unlikely to return to English National Opera again in its present production. So tonight and Friday are the last chances to see this sun-drenched 18th-century comedy of manners at the Coliseum (7pm, 071-836-3161). Lesley Garrett is a predictably cheeky. Despite a devious together with the quartet of lovers, by Andrew Shore's outstanding

grinding their teeth at the prospect of another round of Christmas hostilities. Each visit to this terrible, wintery place confirms my suspicion that centuries of inbreeding have produced a local population bent on homicide, abuse and retribution. The essays and poems are padded with pictures showing down-trodden people peering through the mark at a comarques apparently painted by one of Holland's more depressive landscapists. Nothing like a spell of Fendom for blowing away Christmas excess.

Finally, *Sex Behaviour: The Tailor Book of Alternative Encounters*, by Mary Killeen (Century, £19.99), is a joy to those who turn first to her page in that increasingly humourous magazine, *Ravenena* pops out here again, in the shape of a bewildered letter from a Japanese lady, recently arrived in London, who cannot understand why the British - workmen, re-decorating her house keep showing her their bottom cleavage. The explanation is a model of courtesy and gentle cultural correction.

Elsewhere, Killeen is more wry. I especially liked the advice, for a man forced to attend a Michael Tippett opera, on which stereo headphones caused least offence to other members of the audience. Many an arts editor might admit to the problem.

That's enough lisa. They do not add much to the nation's gaiety, but they keep publishers solvent and earn their place on a nail in the outside fo.

THE SISTERS

A film by MARGARETH VON TROTTA

STORY AND SCREENPLAY DACHA MAZANI AND MARGARETH VON TROTTA

Director of Photography GIUSEPPE LAMCI

Executive Producer ROMANO GARDARELLI

Producer ANGELO RIZZOLI

Directed by MARGARETH VON TROTTA

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Authentic thrills in the dark

THEATRE

Gaslight

Greenwich

GOOD, scary evenings are hard to find nowadays, but Annie Castledine has concocted a pretty formidable one. From the start, her revival of Patrick Hamilton's thriller takes hold of the audience's assembled spines and, without disguising its excesses, keeps them satisfactorily iced-up until the moment when the villain is dragged by policemen in high collar into the 19th-century London muck.

The muck and menace are felt before a word is spoken. Fog puffs up the stairs, followed by amorphous figures casting shadows as they scurry across the landing. Then up go the gas lamps that arc to figure so significantly in the plot, dimly revealing the sort of dark green walls and dark brown curtains within whose orbit nothing can happen. From a piano offstage come sinister discords, ominous rumbles, stealthy paddings up the scale. Even the chap shouting "muffins, muffins" in the street below sounds as though he is hawking ingredients for the witches' pot in *Macbeth*.

Then, a moment of calculated anti-climax. The couple in this living room look and sound as if they belong in *A Doll's House* rather than *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Robert Pickavance's

Jack Manningham sprawls in an armchair, grinning and gurgling with self-satisfaction as he tells Sally Edwards's Bella Manningham, who hovers edgily nearby, that he wishes she weren't "such a perfect little s---". Meet the English counterparts of Ibsen's arrogant Torvald and his poor, paralysed Nora.

The tension soon reasserts itself, however, and is not just a matter of an unjust husband and a repressed wife. According to Jack, Bella has been doing irrational things, such as hiding the family portraits and forgetting where she has put them; and she seems to half believe him. Indeed, Edwards begins to behave like a blend of the mad Ophelia and the distraught Lady Macbeth by way of expressing her character's fear and guilt. Is she losing her mind, as Jack says? Has she been driven potty by a petty despot, as a modern psychiatrist might suggest? Or is there a grimmer alternative? Could Torvald be Iago in a frock-coat?

Many will know the answer, either from earlier revivals or from the film of the play. But it would be a pity to spoil so expert, if extravagant, a piece of plotting for the more innocent. Enough to say that Pickavance — on the evidence of the text, far too young for the role — has a nimble yet serpentine presence that more than justifies his casting. He needs only to sway to transfuse a vulnerable woman and, it seems, only to dart forward to finish her off.

True, the play is packed with



Bernard Gallagher, Stuart Calder and Robert Pickavance in *Gaslight*

melodramatic lines and moments. Even in the grimiest Victorian households, wives were not often found screaming: "Oh God, not my room, for God's sake don't lock me in my room", while their husbands ogled and snarled from the sidelines. What Castledine, Edwards and Pickavance all

know, however, is that the right response to melodrama is to believe in it, throw the self wholly into it. That way, the audience, too, will suspend its scepticism. That way comes the kind of fun now on offer at Greenwich.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JAZZ

Ahmed Jamal

Jazz Café

ing the tots, and although she even threatens them with a sabre-toothed teddy in their stockings, the children obviously feel they can still kiss her without fear.

Derek Griffiths is another who snags at the audience, but here there is no doubt that he is on the side of good, stepping from his role as narrator to serve as an all-seeing owl, soft-hearted huntsman and, best of all, Gipsy King.

He and his polyglot entourage, stuttering in Spanish, flirting in Italian, dancing in Greek and murdering a violin in Hungarian, provide a youthfully boisterous forest interlude — in welcome contrast to the dinky bunnies.

Snow White's Prince has to work with some sly moves for his love song with English, but endearingly extricates himself from a couple of accidental tongue twisters.

The Seven Dwarfs (Suri, Dozy, etc) are played by whatever the current euphemism is for actors whose heads are on a level with Snow White's waist, their presence adding an out-of-the-ordinary wonder to the show.

Pretty backdrops, familiar songs, wit and puffs of smoke all make their contribution to a spirited party.

JEREMY KINGSTON

LEAVING aside such titans as Nik Kershaw, not many musicians have received ringing endorsements from Miles Davis in recent years. The pianist Ahmed Jamal is one of the exceptions. All the more strange, then, that he is still little known outside a small circle of fans.

In the Fifties, Davis readily admitted his admiration for Jamal's lean, introspective style. A fair number of the pianist's tunes — among them "New Rhumba" and "Ahmad's Blues" — quickly found their way into the trumpeter's repertoire. In the late Seventies, when the Prince of Darkness had virtually renounced jazz in favour of other pleasures, a concert by Jamal could still spark his enthusiasm.

Most of the jazz fraternity has taken a different view. Because of his light touch and taste for lyrical ballads, Jamal was early on dismissed as a cocktail pianist, a description he has struggled to shake off.

With luck, his six-night residency at the Jazz Café — his first

British concert in almost a decade — should dispel the preconceptions. This was a ferocious performance, full of colour and incident. Anybody coming to hear recreations of Jamal's early live albums will probably be disappointed. He has moved on a long way since then and, at 60, is still exploring new paths.

Yet, with careful listening, it is still possible to hear the Jamal of 30 years ago. The spare motifs, the discreet right-hand embellishments, are still there. The main change is in the accompaniment. Where earlier sidemen created a spacious backdrop, bassist James Cammack and drummer David Bowler are constantly moving forward with intense and unremitting dialogues. Bowler, it must be said, is overpowering at times. Silence sometimes speaks louder than the loudest drum solo.

Jamal directs proceedings like a conductor, emphasising changes of direction by raising his hand or pointing a finger. The best parallel that comes to mind is Davis's band of a decade or so ago, where the seething energy could be controlled with the tiniest of gestures. We hear a great deal about so-called "power trios". This was the genuine article.

CLIVE DAVIS

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Strand

THIS is the only pantomime to contain truly wicked characters. Demon kings do not count because nobody can take seriously who speaks in rhymed couplets.

In the first minute, Snow White's mother, the White Queen, dies in childbirth and her father has married the Red Queen, the name given to the Wicked Queen in this version. The king is then despatched with a goblet of poisoned wine, leaving the Red Queen with nothing to fear but her candid mirror and Snow White's advance to puberty.

Eighteen years pass in a flash, and on trips Snow White (Louise English) wears the obligatory Tyrolean skirt; a charming and pretty lass, of course, although decidedly slow on the uptake.

Whereas the mirror in the Disney film must have been seriously warped ever to have thought its queen beautiful, Marti Caine's Red Queen is a real stunner. She has to perform the tricky balancing act of portraying undoubted nastiness without scar-

ing the tots, and although she even threatens them with a sabre-toothed teddy in their stockings, the children obviously feel they can still kiss her without fear.

The mystery therefore starts here: it is not about the supposed guilt of the priest, against whom not a shred of evidence could be made to stick, but about the New York alliance of three parties which caused the case to be brought to court.

First there was the local Catholic church, deeply uneasy about Father Lynch's high-profile missionary work among a gay community already decimated by Aids, and the implication that the church itself was not doing enough on their behalf. Then there was a extremist alliance known as Safe, the Society Against Faggots in Education, which wanted to have all gays banned from classrooms; and third, there was the state prosecutor, desperate for a publicised conviction that would

win him some much-needed votes and get the attention away from his own political troubles.

That these three separate forces should have come together against such a man of forgiveness and resourcefulness who remained strong even when all of the New York press seemed ranged against him, is what gives the case its historical fascination. Last night's Channel 4 documentary, *A Priest on Trial*, had to do no more than tell the story of how the church, the law, and a homophobic society conspired to try to destroy a man of God.

Happily they failed to do so, though, as with the McCarthyism of the 1950s, there lingers the aura of groundless suspicion. Lynch will always be known, quite wrongly, as the priest in the sex scandal of the Bronx, despite the fact that from the very outset the prosecution must have known it

had no case. What they did not reckon with was the resilience of their victim, and the story stands as a massive indictment of the religious and political establishment of New York at the end of the last decade.

Over on BBC 2, in *Days of Fear, Days of Rage*, Mike Phillips came up with an equally bleak view of intolerance in Europe. This time it was focused on the migrant workers who have come from the Third World to Germany and Spain, only to find themselves bound and abused by a native population which feels its own national identity to be increasingly threatened. If things continue to Barcelona, the 1992 Olympics will be a symbol not of the new European unity of that year but of much older international and racial tensions.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Priest on Trial/Days of Fear, Days of Rage
Channel 4/BBC 2

THOUGH it has yet to turn up as a thriller at airport bookstalls, the story of Father Bernard Lynch has all the makings of another vanity-boasting account of New York life in the 1980s. Lynch is a real Irish Catholic priest who last year was accused of sexually abusing a boy of 14 in the school of which he was chaplain. That school was in the Bronx, and his prosecutor was a district attorney himself deeply involved in corruption charges at the time of the trial. The only prosecution witness was a young, emotionally unstable gay man.

Given the cost of bringing any defendant to trial in the Bronx, the

judge was understandably amazed at the total collapse of the prosecution case from the very outset.

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SHERIDAN MORLEY

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 20

TO MAN

(b) A myriad or ten thousand in numbers, also a former gold coin worth 10,000 dollars, from the Persian tongue: "The framful and fertile territory of Cash, of which his fathers were the hereditary chiefs, as well as a town of ten thousand houses."

DAPSONE

(c) A drug widely used in the treatment of leprosy, dermatitis, etc., a tricky acronym and abbreviation compounded from (i) + (ii) — p-mercapto, (ii) sulphone: dapsone: "A proportion of leprosy patients may have relapsed during treatment with dapsone."

POLLEX

(b) The thumb or its analogue, from the Latin *pollex* the thumb or big toe: "She clutched her bag between index and pollex."

ENOMOTY

(a) A band of sworn soldiers and chums, especially the smallest Spartan subdivision in their terrifying army, from the Greek *en + omos* to swear: "They filled the midmost, if very wide, by enomoties."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is a variation from the game Pollock-Dinsdale, Hastings Challengers 1989-90. How can White force a quick decision?

Solution in tomorrow's *14 Hastings Premier* should ring 01243 442500 for details.

Thursday's solution: 1... Bxg2

2 Qxg2 Rg3 3 Kxg3 Rg2 4 Kxh3

Qxh3 5 Kxg2 Rg1 6 Kxh2 Rg2 7 Kxg1 Rg1 8 Kxh2 Rg2 9 Kxg1 Rg1 10 Kxh2 Rg2 11 Kxg1 Rg1 12 Kxh2 Rg2 13 Kxg1 Rg1 14 Kxh2 Rg2 15 Kxg1 Rg1 16 Kxh2 Rg2 17 Kxg1 Rg1 18 Kxh2 Rg2 19 Kxg1 Rg1 20 Kxh2 Rg2 21 Kxg1 Rg1 22 Kxh2 Rg2 23 Kxg1 Rg1 24 Kxh2 Rg2 25 Kxg1 Rg1 26 Kxh2 Rg2 27 Kxg1 Rg1 28 Kxh2 Rg2 29 Kxg1 Rg1 30 Kxh2 Rg2 31 Kxg1 Rg1 32 Kxh2 Rg2 33 Kxg1 Rg1 34 Kxh2 Rg2 35 Kxg1 Rg1 36 Kxh2 Rg2 37 Kxg1 Rg1 38 Kxh2 Rg2 39 Kxg1 Rg1 40 Kxh2 Rg2 41 Kxg1 Rg1 42 Kxh2 Rg2 43 Kxg1 Rg1 44 Kxh2 Rg2 45 Kxg1 Rg1 46 Kxh2 Rg2 47 Kxg1 Rg1 48 Kxh2 Rg2 49 Kxg1 Rg1 50 Kxh2 Rg2 51 Kxg1 Rg1 52 Kxh2 Rg2 53 Kxg1 Rg1 54 Kxh2 Rg2 55 Kxg1 Rg1 56 Kxh2 Rg2 57 Kxg1 Rg1 58 Kxh2 Rg2 59 Kxg1 Rg1 60 Kxh2 Rg2 61 Kxg1 Rg1 62 Kxh2 Rg2 63 Kxg1 Rg1 64 Kxh2 Rg2 65 Kxg1 Rg1 66 Kxh2 Rg2 67 Kxg1 Rg1 68 Kxh2 Rg2 69 Kxg1 Rg1 70 Kxh2 Rg2 71 Kxg1 Rg1 72 Kxh2 Rg2 73 Kxg1 Rg1 74 Kxh2 Rg2 75 Kxg1 Rg1 76 Kxh2 Rg2 77 Kxg1 Rg1 78 Kxh2 Rg2 79 Kxg1 Rg1 80 Kxh2 Rg2 81 Kxg1 Rg1 82 Kxh2 Rg2 83 Kxg1 Rg1 84 Kxh2 Rg2 85 Kxg1 Rg1 86 Kxh2 Rg2 87 Kxg1 Rg1 88 Kxh2 Rg2 89 Kxg1 Rg1 90 Kxh2 Rg2 91 Kxg1 Rg1 92 Kxh2 Rg2 93 Kxg1 Rg1 94 Kxh2 Rg2 95 Kxg1 Rg1 96 Kxh2 Rg2 97 Kxg1 Rg1 98 Kxh2 Rg2 99 Kxg1 Rg1 100 Kxh2 Rg2 101 Kxg1 Rg1 102 Kxh2 Rg2 103 Kxg1 Rg1 104 Kxh2 Rg2 105 Kxg1 Rg1 106 Kxh2 Rg2 107 Kxg1 Rg1 108 Kxh2 Rg2 109 Kxg1 Rg1 110 Kxh2 Rg2 111 Kxg1 Rg1 112 Kxh2 Rg2 113 Kxg1 Rg1 114 Kxh2 Rg2 115 Kxg1 Rg1 116 Kxh2 Rg2 117 Kxg1 Rg1 118 Kxh2 Rg2 119 Kxg1 Rg1 120 Kxh2 Rg2 121 Kxg1 Rg1 122 Kxh2 Rg2 123 Kxg1 Rg1 124 Kxh2 Rg2 125 Kxg1 Rg1 126 Kxh2 Rg2 127 Kxg1 Rg1 128 Kxh2 Rg2 129 Kxg1 Rg1 130 Kxh2 Rg2 131 Kxg1 Rg1 132 Kxh2 Rg2 133 Kxg1 Rg1 134 Kxh2 Rg2 135 Kxg1 Rg1 136 Kxh2 Rg2 137 Kxg1 Rg1 138 Kxh2 Rg2 139 Kxg1 Rg1 140 Kxh2 Rg2 141 Kxg1 Rg1 142 Kxh2 Rg2 143 Kxg1 Rg1 144 Kxh2 Rg2 145 Kxg1 Rg1 146 Kxh2 Rg2 147 Kxg1 Rg1 148 Kxh2 Rg2 149 Kxg1 Rg1 150 Kxh2 Rg2 151 Kxg1 Rg1 152 Kxh2 Rg2 153 Kxg1 Rg1 154 Kxh2 Rg2 155 Kxg1 Rg1 156 Kxh2 Rg2 157 Kxg1 Rg1 158 Kxh2 Rg2 159 Kxg1 Rg1 160 Kxh2 Rg2 161 Kxg1 Rg1 162 Kxh2 Rg2 163 Kxg1 Rg1 164 Kxh2 Rg2 165 Kxg1 Rg1 166 Kxh2 Rg2 167 Kxg1 Rg1 168 Kxh2 Rg2 169 Kxg1 Rg1 170 Kxh2 Rg2 171 Kxg1 Rg1 172 Kxh2 Rg2 173 Kxg1 Rg1 174 Kxh2 Rg2 175 Kxg1 Rg1 176 Kxh2 Rg2 177 Kxg1 Rg1 178 Kxh2 Rg2 179 Kxg1 Rg1 1

Major backs Sunday shop law reform

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday gave his backing to a fresh attempt to change the Sunday trading laws. Two days after many leading retailers opened illegally for Christmas shopping, the prime minister branded the laws as bizarre and urged Sunday observance campaigners and retailers to thrash out a compromise.

He made plain that he favoured a system similar to Scotland's which allows unrestricted trading. He said it had not ruined the special significance of Sunday. Mr Major was clearly signalling that if a deal could be reached the government would be prepared to bring legislation before the Commons again.

Without agreement, however, it remains unlikely that ministers would rush forward with a bill that would face a difficult passage. Previous attempts to change the antiquated Sunday trading legislation have foundered in the face of an alliance between the churches and the trade unions. Four years ago the government's last attempt to reform the laws failed when more than 70 Conservative MPs joined with Labour to inflict on Margaret Thatcher her worst parliamentary defeat as prime minister. Since then there have been continued calls for reform, intensified by last weekend's widespread flouting of the law.

Yesterday Mr Major told the Commons that the present law was widely felt to be unsatisfactory. "I can well understand the impatience of MPs over the state of the law. A great deal of the Sunday trading law is bizarre, and the time may well be approaching when the Sunday observance lobby should sit down with the retail trade and see whether an acceptable compromise can be reached. Scotland operates an acceptable law which has not wrecked the special significance of Sunday. I would welcome one in England too," Sir Marcus Fox, vice-chairman of the backbench 1922 committee, said that there was a huge demand for reform from shoppers and traders.

The shopworkers' union, Udsaw, has applied to the High Court for injunctions to prevent shops opening illegally on Sunday.

Last night Labour MPs voiced anger that Mr Major had not criticised the shops which opened. Audrey Wise, MP for Preston, who is sponsored by Udsaw, said: "He completely failed to condemn the law-breakers. It was almost an incitement to them to do it again next Sunday. This is an outrage."

Meanwhile, Udsaw said some of the biggest high street chain stores had pledged not to join the thousands defying Sunday trading laws.



Glen of gloom: the Blanchards exercising their dogs, Jake and Drew, overlooking Glen Garry, possible site of an Admiralty project

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MIKE and Jane Blanchard left for a new life deep in the Scottish Highlands to get away from the bustle and pollution of London. They had found Glen Garry, a hauntingly beautiful place around an hour's drive west of Inverness, on honeymoon five years ago, and moved to Greenfield, near Invergarry.

But their home stands at the apex of a proposed military development by the navy to signal submerged submarines.

The project, around 20 miles of

parallel cables at or just below the surface, would be Britain's first Extremely Low Frequency transmitter. Huge power sources turn the earth into a vast antenna that transmits radio waves with giant wavelengths which can link up with submarines below ice caps. Preliminary plans call for cables running south of Greenfield to Glenn Cia-Aig ending at Achnacarry, said Malcolm Spaven, formerly of the disarmament and armament information service at Sussex University and

now of Edinburgh University. The easterly leg extends parallel with Loch Garry heading out towards Invergarry village.

The navy has been attracted by Glen Garry's geology, which is of extremely low conductivity and high electrical resistance.

The Blanchards, and Bill Waugh, a local yachtsman who has been gathering information on the scheme, are concerned about possible links between such transmitters and human and animal health risks. "You think you

have left behind the pollution of the big city only to be confronted with this," said Mr Blanchard, a master-craftsman and owner of the Building Restoration Company, whose wife is an interior designer.

Evidence of possible risks comes from the United States where two similar systems operate in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Robert Adey, professor of neurology at Loma Linda university school of medicine, California, and chief of research at the Veterans' Administration Medical Centre, said the systems were being increasingly linked with cancers, brain tumours, and imbalances in body rhythms and brain hormones.

A spokesman for the Admiralty Research Establishment, near Portsmouth, said yesterday that "no decision has been taken" on the Scottish installation and the results of an environmental study being undertaken by Fairhurst, a firm of consulting engineers from Newcastle, are awaited.

Key findings from a report, drafted by the United States's Environmental Protection Agency have been surprised by the military and the White House, it is claimed. Details of the unengaged report have however been leaked to *Microwave News*, a New York-based newsletter, revealing that the agency's sharpest criticism is aimed at Extremely Low Frequency systems. Dan Plesch of the British American Security Information Council in London believes the Navy wants the system to communicate with Trident submarines.

Political sketch

A question of the Royal Sir Denis

MR SPEAKER was an awful spoilsport yesterday afternoon. He stopped Joyce Quin (Lab, Gateshead E) from asking the best question anyone has yet devised, for putting out all-singing, all-dancing, shower-proof, windproof, unbuckleable, tasteless, odourless, non-sexist, non-toxic, non-irritant and non-flammable, additive-free and without artificial colouring, organically produced, ozone-friendly, home-grown, free-range, lead-free, aerodynamically designed and *totally* classics prime minister on the spot.

"Can the prime minister explain?" Ms Quin started to ask of Mr Major, how he squared his call for a "classless Britain" with the "creation of an hereditary baronetcy for..."

But before you could say Jack Robinson, let alone "Sir Denis Thatcher, Bt," Mr Kiljoy Speaker leapt in with the boring reminder that it is an absolute rule that the House does not debate these Palace matters. "Try a different tack," he said to the intrepid Ms Quin.

She tried the same tack, a second time. A second time the Speaker cut her short. "We do not," he barked, "bring the royal family into our discussions." Several MPs, unaware that the Thatchers were now to be described in this way, howled. But it was no good. Ms Quin was not given a third bite at the Rotten cherry, and had to sit down. Mr Major dawdled only to the safety of question two.

Having been such a fearful sourpuss over a Labour MP's question, Mr Speaker may have felt he was now obliged to spoil a Tory one as well. But what a tragedy that it was Sir Marcus Fox (C, Shipley) whom he decided to trip, just at the point when the venerable Sir Marcus, steeped in the honours of a lifetime's service to the community and suffocated by virtue, had decided to make a run for it and embrace crime.

"Setting aside the argument," began the bold Sir Marcus, "that shops should obey the law

"... And, before you could say "B & Q," let alone "Sunday open-

ing," in rushed Mr Wet Blanket Weatherill. "Perhaps that was not a very good start," he snapped, inviting Sir Marcus to rejoin us all, this side of the law. Sir Marcus rephrased, but all the fun was gone.

Not many minutes later, Denis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) brought us back to baronetcies. The PM, doing a passable impression at the dispatch box of a non-allergenic soft toy, had been telling us all about his trip to Europe, and how nice everyone was, and how nice he was, and how, with any luck, peace and harmony would be breaking out all over the continent by Christmas. Never was a prime minister more obviously cast in the role of first shepherd, smiling over the manger, in a Westminster nativity play. "Boing" opposition MPs had shouted as he sat down; and each of us secretly yearned for the return of Queen Herod, still sulking in Dulwich.

All these Euro-tiddies were too much for Mr Skinner, for whom comfort and joy are dirty words and good will is not considered a pit-head, political asset. His "question" started more as a growl than an enquiry. From the growl, phrases began to emerge, distinguishable amidst the Derbyshire dialect. "... All these so-called treaties ... usually ended up in the dustbin ... the British people don't want a 'European bank,' run by Germans..."

"... And I'll tell you this. Herr von Baron Strausshausen will never stand for Labour in Derbyshire..." (*uproar, cries of "hear, hear!" "shame!"*)

Neil Kinnock, who as number 2 shepherd had just delivered his own small gift at the Euro-manger but was having trouble getting the angels behind him to sing in chorus gave the sort of teeth-grinding grin that will be recognised by any parent who has watched as their infant Joseph stamps his tiny sandalled foot and refuses to adore the plastic doll in swaddling clothes.

"... And that," rapped Skinner, "will be the end of that!"

Matthew Parris

Prince of Wales to boost morale of British troops in Gulf force

Continued from page 1

the Iraqi leader said that Mr Aziz would not go to the United States to get directives.

"If Bush is to repeat the UN resolutions to us, then there's no point in going there. Any Iraqi concession on Kuwait is out of the question before the Palestinian problem is solved," President Saddam said.

The growing risk of conflict yesterday strengthened the case for reducing the 16-strong staff of Britain's embassy in Baghdad, but the diplomats are understood to be reluctant to leave until the British community there has been whittled down further.

The embassy will today press the Iraqi authorities to grant exit visas to employees of three British companies who have been told that they cannot go. It is thought that about 40 of the 60 remaining Britons would leave if they could.

When the prince travels to the region, he will be the most senior public figure to have visited the British contingent of the multinational force in Saudi Arabia.

Last month, President Bush visited American troops and shared with them a Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Today, the Princess of Wales has recently visited both the headquarters of the Gulf Support Group and the Foreign Office emergency centre in London to meet hostages who have been released from Kuwait.

During her first visit to the unified Germany last month, the Queen visited RAF Leimbach to see Tornados being prepared for Gulf duty.

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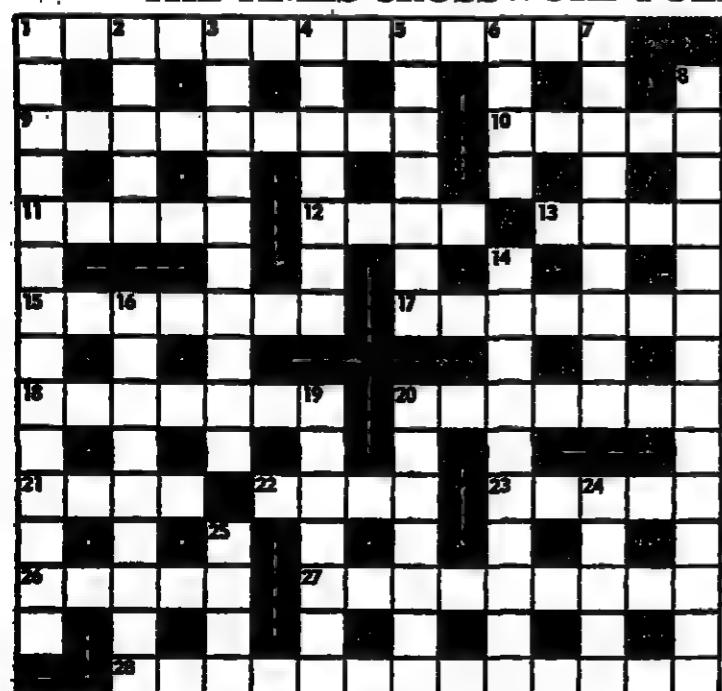
East. However, in recent months they have made a particular point of visiting units involved in the Gulf build-up.

In September, the Duke of York, colonel-in-chief of the Staffordshire, visited his regiment in Germany before they were dispatched to Saudi Arabia.

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,481



ACROSS

1. New daily direction delaying the attendant (4-2-7).
2. Diver shows remorse, having eaten most of the fruit (9).
3. Accomplished politician's first message (15).
4. Leaders of territorial division crossing very small river (5).
5. Eastern drama - jolly type (4).
6. Temptation to persecute (4).
15. Cancelling appearance of University students if in New York (7).
17. Great conductor from West - eccentric sort (7).
18. Filthy Lebanese extremists in a French prison (7).
19. Cockney's horse apt to be put out to grass (7).
21. Nobody leaves to seek an assignment (4).
22. Mole's equal, by the sound of it (4).
23. In the kitchen it really replaces salt (5).
Solutions to Puzzle No 18,480

WORD-WATCHING
A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

TONIAN
a. An Indian chief
b. Ten thousand
c. The tomato mangos

DAPSONE
a. Velvet veleers
b. A pig/sheep cross
c. A leprosy drug

POLLEX
a. Poll tax legislation
b. The thumb
c. Fallen draft

EMOTONY
a. A Spartan band
b. Surgery
c. The scented spindle

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.
London & SE traffic, roadworks C. London (within E & S Circs), 731 M-ways/roads M4-M1 732 M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733 M-ways/roads M22-M4 734 M-ways/roads M25 London Orbital only 735 National traffic and roadworks 736 West Country 737 Wales 738 Midlands 739 North England 740 North-East England 741 Scotland 742 Northern Ireland 744 AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Concise crossword, page 15

WEATHER

wintery showers spreading from the North-West. Most places becoming dry in the evening. Cloudy at first in the South-West and south Wales, brightening later with a few showers. The rest of England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have generally broken cloud and wintery showers. Scotland will have sunny spells with wintery showers. Outlook: mainly dry in the South, cloudy with outbreaks of rain in the North.

ABROAD

MONDAY: Thunder; drizzle; sp. rain; sun; snow; fair; cloudy; hazy.

Alexandria 15 Majorca 15 F 41 bright sun; drizzle; hazy.

Barcelona 16 40 39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 3

Birmingham Mint rejects increased bid from IMI

By JONATHAN PRYNN

IMI, the engineering group, has raised its hostile takeover offer for Birmingham Mint, the coin and medal maker, from 85p to 95p, valuing the target at £13.6 million. But the new offer was rejected by the Birmingham Mint camp.

At the close of business yesterday, IMI controlled 34.7 per cent of Birmingham Mint after going into the market to buy 29.99 per cent of the shares, the maximum it can obtain before the publication of the Office of Fair Trading report into the proposed takeover. Publication is expected this week.

The increased offer was triggered by the purchase of a 15.8 per cent block from Dunedin, the fund manager, which is the largest single shareholder in Birmingham Mint. A further 4.75 per cent acceptances have been received by IMI from Birmingham Mint shareholders. IMI controls 36.39 per cent of the preference shares.

Shares in Birmingham Mint rose 9p to 94p after the announcement of the final improved offer, which represents an exit multiple of 11.9 times Birmingham Mint's forecast 8p earnings for the year to the end of March.

Gary Allen, chief executive of IMI, said the new terms offered a 58 per cent premium

to the pre-bid share price "and would provide a significantly better income than the promised dividend". In its defence document, Birmingham pledged to lift the full-year dividend from 5.5p to 6.5p a share.

In announcing the improved offer, IMI attacked Birmingham Mint's "irresponsible" dividend policy and its failure to produce a profit forecast. "Birmingham Mint has produced a document which includes unconvincing and unsubstantiated arguments about current performance and prospects," Mr Allen said.

IMI plans to combine and introduce new technology to the minting activities of the two companies. "To have two small mints only three miles apart competing in international markets makes no sense," an IMI spokesman said.

However, Birmingham Mint rejected the improved terms as only a "nominal increase" in the offer which "represents a miserable price for a company with a proven recovery potential and excellent growth prospects".

The company says that a merger of the minting operations is against the public interest as it will create a private-sector monopoly.

Temps, page 23

Triplex wins £4m order from army

By COLIN CAMPBELL

TRIPLEX Lloyd, the industrial engineer, has won a £4 million contract to supply the British Army with 200,000 bayonets, James Doel, the chairman, said in announcing reduced interim pre-tax profits.

The bayonet order is likely to be used for ceremonial purposes, although the weapons could be used in war.

While operating profits from continuing operations rose marginally in the six months ended September, reduced property profits saw group pre-tax profit slip from £5.1 million to £4.2 million on a turnover of £102.2 million.

The interim dividend is maintained at 2.5p a share.

Mr Doel said there had been a 10 per cent reduction in the

Braithwaite holds dividend after fall

By MARTIN BARROW

BRAITHWAITE, the industrial services company, is maintaining the interim dividend at 1.4p a share after reporting a £600,000 fall in pre-tax profits to £2 million for the six months to the end of September. Earnings were 6.8p per share, against 9.6p.

Turnover of £31.09 million compared with £33.22 million last time, which included £4.7 million from Godiva, the pump distributor, sold in September 1989. Andrew Sykes, the group's core subsidiary, reported turnover 6 per

cent up, helped by strong demand for air conditioning during the warm summer.

Trading profits fell from £4.31 million, which included £600,000 from Godiva, to £3.48 million. Interest charges were steady at £1.47 million, against £1.69 million.

Last year, the company reported interim profits of £2.6 million but was severely affected by restructuring costs at Andrew Sykes during the second half, which reduced full year profits to £2.3 million before tax, against £6.53 million.

Others are expected to maintain or reduce bonuses after the general market downturn this year.

The maturity value of a CU ten-year, with-profits endowment taken out by a man aged 30 next birthday, paying £30 a month, would be £7,645.

The company said that 13 episodes of the *Poohsticks & Co* cartoon series will be screened weekly on BBC1 from January, with the BBC having the right to repeats and an option on broadcasting rights for any additional series.

Its success last year, the firm claimed assets of \$3.6 billion.

Like other investment companies, Hung Yuan attracted large deposits from tens of thousands of Taiwanese, many of them pensioners, by offering interest rates of up to 8 per cent per month.

Faith in the companies was so strong that most investors re-invested their profits, leaving them vulnerable when the companies were obliged to comply with a banking law passed in July 1989.

The law, which orders prison sentences and heavy fines for illegal deposit-taking, reflected growing government fears that the underground banks were simply

but Hung Yuan and the Fortune Group, the second-largest, continued to operate, although they cut interest payments and stopped accepting deposits. They later promised to restructure and sell their assets to repay investors. Operations have been frozen for the past several months.

Ting Lei-miao, the head of the Fortune Group, was sentenced to four and a half years in prison in July for violations of the banking law. The first group of Hung Yuan officials, including Mr Shen, was arrested on August 22.

Prosecutors said yesterday that 18 of the 81 accused were being detained.

NFC final bonuses cut

By MARTIN WALLER

THE 33,000 employee shareholders in NFC, the former National Freight Consortium, which made its market debut less than two years ago, will see their year-end bonuses severely cut for the first time since the group's corporate recovery in the early Eighties as it braces the chill winds of recession.

NFC just beat its "best view" or profits forecast of £97 million made in June, with pre-tax profits of £97.7 million, up from £90.2 million, in the 53 weeks to October 6. A final dividend of 1.6p makes a total of 5.65p, a 14 per cent rise, after taking account of last year's rights issue, and earnings per share rose 11 per cent to 13.6p.

The sum set aside for the employees' profit-sharing scheme, one of the planks of the group's recovery under Sir Peter Thompson, retiring chairman, drops from £15.9 million to £5.1 million. The sum is worked out on a formula based on the level of operating profits, which fell 5 per cent to £108.7 million.

Had these profits fallen 10 per cent the employees would have received nothing, James Watson, who takes over as chairman on January 1, said. A 15 per cent rise would have given them more than £15 million to share out. "Perform and you get the major allocation. They understand that," he said.

The actual amount each will receive will be about £150, down from £450 last year.

The outlook for NFC was gloomy, Jack Mather, chief executive, said. "The current year has begun with no real encouragement in sight, either for ourselves or for UK business in general."



Perform for rewards: James Watson yesterday

McDonnell Douglas shares drop

By PHILIP PANGALOS

MORE than \$38 million was wiped off the stock market value of McDonnell Douglas after it was disclosed that an American government audit report said the plane maker had fallen into weak financial condition (Philip Robinson writes).

According to a report of the audit, McDonnell, America's largest defence contractor, and General Dynamics, the No. 3, had a chance of bankruptcy. McDonnell's shares dropped 51 to \$42.875, but General Dynamics added 25 cents to \$2.6.

J&S payout cut
Jones & Shipman, maker of precision metalworking machines, has cut its interim dividend after pre-tax profits slipped from £645,000 to £400,000 in the six months to end-September, despite turnover ahead from £1.1 million to £1.2 million. Earnings fell to 41.4p, the interim dividend to 17.9p (3.2p), the interim dividend to 1p (1.5p).

Amer chief to go
Heikki Salonen, chairman and chief executive of Amer, the Finnish consumer products group listed in London, has resigned effective February 28, the end of the financial year.

Castletown down
Castletown Press, the Irish printer and stationer, saw pre-tax profits decline from £122,420 to £114,130 (£105,767) for the six months to end-October. Turnover increased from £657,024 to £614,414 million. Earnings fell to 3.37p (3.58p). Interim dividend is 1.26p, up 12 per cent to 1.46p.

Reorganisation cuts Tinsley Robor profit
By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE disruptive effects of an internal reorganisation cut the pre-tax profits of the Tinsley Robor specialist printing company by 31 per cent to £431,000 in the six months to end-September. But the interim dividend is being maintained at 0.75p on earnings per share of 1.09p (1.45p).

Turnover fell to £11.9 million, compared with £14.2 million in 1989. The reduction was the result of the closure of the machinery division, against which extraordinary costs of £233,000 have

Adverts slump hits Midlands Radio

By PHILIP PANGALOS

Ron Coles, managing director, said: "Advertising revenue has not been as strong as we had hoped." He said that more listeners were tuning in, and the group has a 44 per cent weekly reach of the Midlands radio market, against 43 per cent previously.

Mr Coles said: "Local sales are holding up well, although national sales are still disappointing." National revenue declined by 7.7 per cent.

Earnings slip from 9.89p to 7.95p. The final dividend is 2p, making an unchanged 4.5p. There was an exceptional cost of £92,000, relating to redundancy costs. Flotation expenses resulted in an extraordinary loss of £421,000. The shares firmed from 2p to 10.6p.

Reorganisation cuts Tinsley Robor profit
By JONATHAN PRYNN

been charged for the first half. Continuing activities lifted their sales by 8.3 per cent.

John Rose, the chairman, said that trading since September 30 had seen the expected seasonal improvement in the promotional printing division.

However, the worsening economic climate meant that the benefits of investment in the packaging division may take longer than expected to materialise. Borrowings increased to £7.3 million, giving gearing of 78 per cent.

Dip at GW Thornton
By JONATHAN PRYNN

PRICES closed higher after three and featureless trading, supported mainly by index-linked buying. Expectations of lower domestic interest rates helped even though investors are nervous about the American-Iraqi deadlock concerning talks on the Gulf.

The Nikkei index closed up 336.11 points, or 1.40 per cent, to 24,424.02 after losing 261.59 on Monday. The index ended at 1.50.

Brokers were pleased about the fact that the Nikkei stayed above a psychological support line of 24,000 both on Monday and yesterday.

Turnover was 350 million shares against 270 million on Monday.

The market got a shot in the arm in the afternoon after the Bank of Japan said that November's money supply growth was 10 per cent, less than expected. This strengthened the belief that rates will ease soon.

(Reuters)

Burmah stake in Foseco near 30%

By MARTIN BARROW

BURMAH Castrol has increased its holding in Foseco to almost 30 per cent by acquiring 6 per cent in the stock market, including a stake of about 4 per cent from Mercury Asset Management.

Meanwhile, Foseco has stepped up its campaign for support from institutional shareholders in its fight against Burmah's 300p a share bid for the company. During the next 48 hours, meetings will take place with M&G, which holds 10 per cent, and Prudential and 6.75 per cent Phillips & Drew Fund Management holds 7.5 per cent and Hill Samuel 4.3 per cent. Foseco claims the support of another 25 per cent.

Burmah's bid, which values the speciality chemicals group at £259 million, closes on Friday. At the first closing date, the original offer of 280p a share attracted acceptances of 1 per cent. Foseco shares yesterday fell 2p to 294p, while those of Burmah fell 8p to 505p.

Despite Burmah's position, analysts believe the contest is finely balanced as institutions assess whether to accept the cash bid or support the programme of disposals and a share buyback scheme proposed by Tom Long, the chairman of Foseco, in the company's defence.

Foseco proposes to sell interests in construction chemicals and abrasives to raise about £150 million to finance the buy-in of 30 million shares more than half the issued share capital, at 300p via a scheme of arrangement which would require the approval of shareholders.

Burmah has not said whether it would approve the scheme in respect of its own shareholding. Non-tax paying funds that accept Foseco's offer would be entitled to an advanced corporation tax credit of 65p a share.

If all disposals are completed, Foseco will be left with its core metallurgical businesses and interests in diamond products, which will generate trading profits of £33 million on sales of £381 million in the current year, according to the company's defence document.

The group made an extraordinary profit of £20.3 million. Earnings per share fell to 13p (13.7p).

The group made an extraordinary profit of £4.34 million from the sale of its business services division and is paying a special dividend of 33.75p a share in February on top of an unchanged final dividend of 2.75p, which makes 4.75p for the year with the unchanged 2p interim payout.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Devenish wholesaling side sold for £15m

JA DEVENISH, the West Country brewer, has sold its Cannonbury beer, wine and spirits wholesaling business for £15 million in a management buyout. The brewer will retain 30 per cent and another 19.9 per cent will be held by Swiss Bank Corporation.

Devenish intends to concentrate on its public houses and is considering the future of its brewing operations. The Cannonbury buyout is being led by David Fisher, a former marketing director of the Dee Corporation and a director of the Ashley Group, who comes in as chairman and chief executive. Devensh is making a loan facility of up to £1.75

Carpet firm's profits decline

Levercrest in £23,000 loss

PRE-TAX profits at Victoria Carpet Holdings fell from £1.08 million to £867,000 in the six months to end-September. Turnover fell from £19.4 million to £18.3 million, with the downturn blamed on difficult conditions. Earnings per share slipped from 10.95p to 8.15p. There is no interim dividend, but a dividend is expected at year-end.

CHI cuts dividend

PRE-TAX profits at CHI Industries, the mini-conglomerate, dived from £7.3 million to £344,000 during the half-year to end-September after exceptional costs of £408,000 for restructuring. Sales advanced £5.2 million to £121.5 million.

Tim Hearley, executive chairman, said profits were hit by slumps in the markets for office and household products, automotive and mass transit equipment, and property, and by higher finance charges. The company is cutting capital spending to match depreciation. The interim dividend was reduced from 1.2p to 0.3p. CHI shares fell 7p to 16p.

Westpool up to £4.17m

WESTPOOL Investment Trust, the investment holding company, lifted pre-tax profits from £2.76 million to £4.17 million in the half year to end-September. Gross income advanced from £2.93 million to £4.4 million. Earnings per share rose from 2.55p to 3.77p. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.35p. There was an extraordinary profit of £98,000.

Faupel slips at half time

FAUPEL Trading Group, the textile to clothing importer, made pre-tax profits of £609,000 (£732,000) in the six months to end-September. Turnover grew to £28.89 million (£32.32 million), with operating profits at £1.05 million (£1.03 million). Earnings are 5.03p (6.21p) per share and the interim dividend stays at 1.82p. The shares fell 2p to 58p.

Dip at GW Thornton

GW THORNTON, the Unlisted Securities Market engineer and maker of precision instruments for aerospace and medical markets, made pre-tax profits of £1.35 million against £1.42 million for the year to September on unchanged sales of £20.3 million. Earnings per share fell to 13p (13.7p).

The group made an extraordinary profit of £4.34 million from the sale of its business services division and is paying a special dividend of 33.75p a share in February on top of an unchanged final dividend of 2.75p, which makes 4.75p for the year with the unchanged 2p interim payout.

WALL STREET

Dow advance trimmed

PRICES advanced at mid-morning, helped by strength in some technology and drug shares. But blue chips eased.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 7 points at 2,600.32 after being 18 points higher.

● Sydney — Worries about the

STOCK MARKET

Kleinwort sees index rising

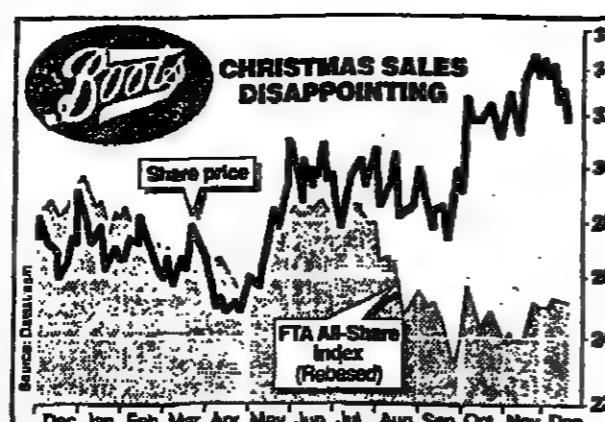
KLEINWORT Benson, the securities house, is forecasting a prosperous new year for its clients despite the recession and the threat of war in the Middle East.

Analysts at its global strategy conference were cautious about short-term prospects because of events in the Gulf. But they suggest that the next big upward movement in the FT-SE 100 index will take it to 2,700 as a combination of declines in inflation, interest rates and the oil price start to make an impact. The recession is also expected to be short-lived with the first signs of an upturn in the middle of next year when personal incomes start to grow.

Roger Palmer, at Kleinwort, says: "We are more bullish than our counterparts about events in 1991, but a war in the Middle East could still result in a sharp fall for the market."

Kleinwort has also chosen its top ten shares for next year. They include: Kingfisher, down 2p at 364p, Claxx, 11p cheaper at 854p, Unilever, 5p better at 695p, Grand Metropolitan, up 8p at 656p, British Gas, 1p cheaper at 234p, Thames Water, 2p firmer at 264p, Racial Electronics, 2p easier at 186p, Lucas Industries, 3p dearer at 139p, George Wimpey, unchanged at 202p, and General Accident, 5p lower at 483p.

Hopes for a traditional pre-Christmas rally are growing thinner daily. Events in the



Gulf continue to deter fund managers from investing in equities and even market-makers only seem interested in getting their books squared-up before the festive break. Trading is certain to remain thin in these conditions.

The FT-SE saw gains virtually halved, ending 3.9 higher at 2,161.8. The FT index of 30 shares rose 4.0 to 1,694.2.

Once again, the turnover figure of 575 million shares was inflated by the electricity shares where dealers reported the first signs of American buying. There were gains for East Midlands, 4p to 148p, London Electricity, 2½p to 146p, Manweb, 1p to 173p, Midlands, 2p to 144p, Norweb, 4p to 151p, Southern, 1p to 147p, South Wales, 3p to 167p, and Yorkshire, 5p to 168p. Seeboard was unchanged at 149p but there were falls for Northern, 1p to 144p, and Eastern, 1p to 142½p. The electricity package, popular with the institutions, jumped 22p to £1.515.

The water companies, not to be outdone, enjoyed further institutional support in the

face of some bumper interim figures from Wessex, showing pre-tax profits jumping from £8.8 million to £34.9 million and a 20 per cent increase in the dividend. The Wessex price responded with a rise of 8p to 256p. There were also rises in Anglian, 4p to 273p, Northumbrian, 6p to 284p, North West, 3p to 263p, Severn Trent, 3p to 238p, Southern, 1p to 248p, South West, 2p to 263p, Welsh, 2p to 279p, and Yorkshire, 6p to 271p. The water package was 2½p better at £2.605.

Government securities were affected by the latest public sector borrowing requirement. Losses at the longer end stretched to almost 2½ in nervous trading.

The clearing banks continued to lose ground after a number of profit downgradings on Monday and the news that the Midland Bank had broken off merger talks with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking, its 15 per cent shareholder.

Hoare Govett, the broker, cut its forecast for Barclays

bank from £1.18 billion to £910 million while rival broker Warburg Securities went a step further and reduced its estimate from £1.14 billion to £875 million. Hoare also cut its estimate for Midland from £120 million to £50 million, for Lloyds from £785 million to £700 million and for National Westminster from £350 million to £680 million.

Midland led the way with a fall of 11p to 198p, Lloyds fell 4p to 282p, and NatWest 5p to 264p. Barclays recovered to finish 4p better at 354p.

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, fell 9p to 159p after the group announced it was sacking 10 per cent of its workforce because of a downturn in the art market. Autumn sales were halved, compared with last year's record £675 million, although in dollar terms the fall was only 39 per cent. Lord Carrington, the chairman, said the group had decided to take prompt action to significantly reduce its cost base.

Boots, the high street chemist, fell 4p to 319p after a sell

recommendation from EZW. The shares have outperformed the market, but Christmas sales appear to be disappointing and the group is likely to enter the new year with high stock levels. BZW has trimmed its forecast for the current year to £360 million compared with £342 million last time.

British Aerospace fell 7p to 522p to after a profits downgrading by Kleinwort Benson, which has cut its forecast for the current year from £370 million to £355 million and for next year by £65 million to £355 million. Kleinwort blamed high redundancy costs and the downturn in the engineering industry.

NPC, formerly the government-owned National Freight Corporation, rose 7p to 123p after reporting a jump of £7.5 million to £97.7 million in annual pre-tax profits. The figures were at the top end of expectations but Jack Mathers, the chief executive, issued a warning that the group would face difficult conditions in many of its markets next year.

Talk of profit downgradings left the Sandwell public relations group 10p cheaper at 63p and Aegis 11p down at 134p.

A buy recommendation from Hoare Govett lifted Shell by 9p to 459p but Burmah lost 8p to 505p as it tried to buy more Fosse shares in the market-place.

MICHAEL CLARK

RECENT ISSUES			
EQUITIES			
Atlantic Resources	57	Faber Prest	145
Abercon Smk Cos	162-1	Golden Vale	103
Bracefit Res	155	Invergordon	142
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Casta Cern (50p)	32	Leicester	14
ECI Tel	43	MMI	16
EPIC Jevs Tel	35-1	Malaysian Capital	200-5
Exodus	103	Marconi Radio	105-2
Excalibur Gp	46	Metaphor	105-2
			● See main prices page for Electricity shares
			RIGHTS ISSUES
			Control Tech Np
			England (3) Np
			Harvey & Thom Np
			Surry Np
			Tulsa Res Np
			100-5 117 120-1
			117 120-1
			(Issue price in brackets)

RECENT ISSUES

Electricity shares

RIGHTS ISSUES

Control Tech Np

England (3) Np

Harvey & Thom Np

Surry Np

Tulsa Res Np

100-5 117 120-1

117 120-1

(Issue price in brackets)

Law Report December 19 1990

Distasteful design can be registered

In re Masterman's Application
Before Mr Justice Aldous
(Judgment December 12)

In order to justify an exercise of discretion against registration of a design which was not in itself so immoral that a court of equity would refuse to lend its aid to its owner as against an infringer, it was not sufficient that the design might be merely regarded as distasteful to a substantial number of persons.

Mr Justice Aldous said in the Chancery Division in allowing an appeal by Mrs Pamela Meule les Landes Clos, Landes du Marche, Vale, Guernsey, against the Registrar of Designs (see 3 of the Registered Design Act 1949 and 4 of the Design Act 1985) that the registration would be likely to give offence to a not inconsiderable number of persons, to register sheet 5 of her design as a toy doll.

Section 3 of the 1949 Act provides: "(1) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorising or requiring the register to register a design the use of which would, in his opinion, be contrary to law or morality."

Mr Cole, chartered patent agent, for the appellant; Mr John Baldwin for the registrar.

MR JUSTICE ALDOUS said that the appeal arose from a wedding party in Guernsey attended by a Scotsman in a kilt. One of the wedding photographs had been taken before the fact that he wore no undergarment.

Mrs Masterman had been asked by the bride and groom to make a doll to commemorate the occasion. A series of similar commissions had followed and, ultimately, an application to register her design.

Sheet 5 showed what one saw when the doll's kilt was lifted: mimetic male genitalia. The regis-

try objected under both sections 3(3) and 43(1) of the 1949 Act and Mrs Masterman's appeal had been heard by Mr G. Harden, superintendent examiner, acting for the registrar.

He had found in her favour under section 43(1) but against her on section 3(3) in the following words: "The registry has, following the guidance of the judgment of Mr Justice Everard in *La Marquise Footwear's Application* (1947) 64 RPC 27], taken a firm line in objecting to designs showing representations of genitalia since such ... were considered to offend susceptibilities of certain members of the public by no means few in number."

Mr Cole had submitted that the registrar had no discretion but the history of the parallel legislation governing designs and patents, coupled with the language of section 3(3), had justified his Lordship to the contrary.

The question remained, had the superintendent examiner exercised that discretion correctly?

There was no reason why the registry should not establish guidelines but they could not be more than guidelines and in each case there had to be real grounds before an otherwise valid application could be rejected.

It had been suggested that for the design to be registered would be to give sheet 5 an official stamp of approval. This his Lordship could not accept. A design was acting entirely administratively, as distinct from administratively, in deciding whether a design was registrable.

No doubt it would be wrong to register a design which would offend the moral principles of right-thinking members of society but his Lordship found it hard to see anything worse against this particular design than that some people might regard it as distasteful; why Parliament should be taken as wishing to deprive Mrs Masterman of the protection against infringement of her design which registration would afford.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Preference denied

In re P & C & R & T (Stockport) Ltd
(Stockport) Ltd

Before Mr Justice Scott
(Judgment November 22)

Where a company, incorporated as one of four joint venturers and intended under the terms of the joint venture agreement to carry out the joint venture, became subject to an administration order, another of the four joint venture companies was not entitled to enforce the contractual obligations owed to it by the company under the joint venture agreement, so as, in effect, to place that other company in the position of a secured creditor to the detriment of the company's other creditors.

Mr Justice Scott held in the Chancery Division in giving judgment on an application by the administrators of P & C & R & T (Stockport) Ltd for directions. The other joint venture companies were Provincial and City Property Co Ltd, Rush and Tompkins Group Ltd and Rush and Tompkins Property Ltd, the latter two companies being in liquidation.

Mr Ian Leeming, QC and Mr Ian Little for the administrators; Mr Gabriel Moes, QC and Mr Robin Dicker for Provincial and City Property; Mr Brendan

Hegarty for the Co-Operative Bank plc.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that although the joint venture agreement expressly provided that the joint venturers were not partners, the relationship between them nevertheless bore an analogy with partnership.

To permit the management provisions of the joint venture agreement to be specifically enforced against the administrators would be inconsistent with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and in particular with the purpose of section 14(4) of that Act.

Accordingly, the administrators were entitled to have the 199-year lease of the development site, which constituted the main asset of the joint venture, vested in the company, provided that a release from all obligations resting on the joint venture company, under the agreement for the lease or under the lease itself, was first obtained from the Co-Operative Bank, which had purchased the reversion from the local authority, the original lessor. It appeared that the obtaining such a release presented no problems.

Solicitors: Slater Heelis, Manchester; Nabarro Nathanson, Addleshaw Sons & Latham, Manchester.

Criticism of separate sentencing

Regina v Elias

It was unfortunate that one co-defendant was sentenced by a different judge from the judge passing sentence on another co-defendant.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Pill) stated on November 26, when reducing a sentence from four years to 30 months in a young offender institution.

Michael Anthony Elias, aged 17, appealed against the four-year sentence imposed on February 2 at St Albans Crown Court by Judge Rodwell, QC, on pleas of guilty to robbery and theft with 14 other offences taken into consideration.

Mark Mathurin, aged 17, who had pleaded guilty to the robbery and also burglary but not guilty to another offence, was placed on probation for two years by Judge Hickman at St Albans Crown Court on June 15.

MR JUSTICE PILL, giving the judgment of the court, said that it was unfortunate that the appellant and the co-defendant were sentenced by different judges.

Their Lordships would echo what was said in *R v Forde* (*The Times*, June 18), in which co-defendants had been sentenced by different judges and the Court of Appeal said that it was a most undesirable practice where the reason for transferring a case was apparently one of administrative convenience rather than any good reason in law or practice.

Judicial review apt

Regina v Leicester Crown Court, Ex parte S

The decision of a crown court whether to exercise its power under section 39 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 to allow publication of particulars identifying a young person was not a "matter relating to trial on indictment" within section 29(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and was therefore subject to judicial review.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Rock) so held in a reserved judgment on December 4 when allowing an application for judicial review.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Rock) so held in a reserved judgment on December 4 when allowing an application for judicial review.

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When duty calls over Christmas

Matthew Parris recently revealed in *the Times* when he was an MP he spent Christmas Day visiting hospitals and institutions. He said this was rather dressing, since most of those would fit enough to know who they were had been judged fit enough to spend Christmas at home, some was left with those who were unlikely to know who he was, let alone appreciate his attentions. But he did it because the MP for West Derbyshire had always done it, it was a job of work.

Journalists have not always done it, but most others will be doing it this year. Since Rupert Murdoch stunned the print unions in 1986 by moving *the Times* newspaper to Wapping overnight, the newspaper industry has become, on the whole, more profitable and also more competitive. Further, most of the industry's new agreements with journalists and production staff cover working throughout the year so that, in general, no extra payments are due for working on Christmas Day on papers that will be distributed on Boxing Day.

Bert Hardy, the managing director of Associated Newspapers, claims that Boxing Day publication of the *Daily Mail* "has become an economic proposition". Of course, sales will be well down — some suggest that the tabloids may lose 40 per cent of their sales — but careful estimation will cut the print order to the appropriate figure, leading to substantial savings in paper and ink. At the very least he does not expect to lose money on Boxing Day, and he will maintain continuity of publication.

No other publisher seemed quite

Charles Wintour discovers where the printing presses will roll during the festivities

so sanguine about the economic benefits of Boxing Day publication, but over at Express Newspapers the managing director, Andrew Cameron, agrees about the virtues of continuity. In these competitive times, he says it is essential "to maintain a presence". He reckons that as many as 60 per cent of the newsgroups may not open, but if they are placed in a high street that is almost empty of pedestrians he understands their reluctance to open up.

Ernie Burrington, the managing director of Mirror Group Newspapers, says, after reflection, that the *Daily Mirror* will be publishing "to entertain our readers". He reckons they will need entertainment after the rigours of Christmas Day itself. Meanwhile, the newspaper division of News International will be publishing three newspapers on Boxing Day — the *Sun*, *Today* and *The Times*. John Dux, the managing director, agrees that the *Sun's* sales will be reduced, but feels that publication is necessary as a service to readers. As for *The Times*, he expects a good day, since in the absence of other broadsheet papers newsgroups may well deliver *The Times* as a substitute. He says the editor was initially sceptical, but came

round to the idea after he had studied the figures.

But why aren't the other broadsheets joining in what seems like a general and unexpected burst of philanthropy? They give a variety of reasons. Peter Preston, the chairman and editor of the *Guardian*, says, "Left to myself I'd publish every day of the week and three times on Sundays." But he reckons that "Christmas Day still has a small ring fence around it" and he does not wish to break that down just yet.

The *Independent's* deputy and executive editor, Matthew Symonds, says "we look at the costs every year", and so far the costs (involving contract printers) outweigh the revenue, although the sum involved is not large. Further, he says that there is absolutely no pressure from readers. Not a single letter of complaint about non-publication has been received in four years. At the *Daily Telegraph*, the executive editor, Jeremy Dodes, with a proper Conservative respect for tradition, says "we never have done it", and adds that a lot of the suppliers "like a day in bed".

Ronald Newton, who runs an efficient newsgroup in Canongate Place, Islington, north London, will say "Amen" to that. "It's unfair to the kids," he says, "to tell them not to stay up late on Christmas Day or New Year's Eve because they have to deliver early the next day. Some are 17 or 18 years old." Nor does he think it worthwhile to open up the shop. "We used to open on Boxing Day," he says, "and we'd kick our heels until lunch. Then there would



Time out: newsgroups like to give paperboys such as Neil Lewis, aged 14, of east London, a break

be all the heating and lighting; it just wasn't worth it." So Mr Newton is closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

In Tisbury, Wiltshire, Michael Loggall of Pickering's Newsagents, is not all that happy at Boxing Day publication either. "We will sell them, but we won't deliver," he says. "If we delivered *The Times* instead of the *Guardian*, some would like it and some would not. Also I feel it's unfair to ask the delivery boys to turn out."

Of course, many newsgroups

both open the shop and deliver. Jock Oram, columnist of the *Progressive Newsgroup*, says: "Continuity publication has taken away one of the very few days off that newsgroups can enjoy. Of course, continuity is valuable. But is it worth it to the newsgroup? Some do deliveries and then close up. Others stay open most of the day. Everyone has to make their own judgment."

As for the readers, some may well be suffering from a surfeit of family festivities and relish the thought of having a newspaper

MEDIA WATCH

Under attack

DESPITE dramatic moves towards democracy in east Europe, South Africa and Chile, systematic attack in press freedom continues in many countries, a 1990 national Press Institute *Review World Press Freedom Report* has found.

In Romania, the government still controls newspapers, facilities, constant harassment, and even a prison in Turkey, 15 others have been arrested. In South Africa, an editor was convicted of breaching the Protection of Information Act, several journalists have been beaten and one killed. In Chile, journalists continue to be jailed.

Video cashes in

EUROPEAN consumer spending on video rentals and sales in 1989 exceeded \$4 billion, one and a half times the sum spent on watching films at the cinema, a study by *Screen Digest* has revealed. However, the European rental market is forecast to slip by 10 per cent from \$3.6 billion in 1988 to \$3.02 billion this year as a result of competition from satellite and cable channels.

Listings fight

REGIONAL newspaper editors are refusing to pay the BBC and Independent Television Publications (ITP) for daily television listings information when the duopoly of *Radio Times* and *TV Times* is broken in March. ITP plans to charge fees ranging from £1,500 to £50,000 depending on circulation. The Guild of British Newspaper Editors says newspapers would be prepared to pay only "an equitable fee" for seven-day information.

Greek accent

BRITAIN'S first Greek television channel, Hellenic TV, has begun broadcasting daily local news, current affairs and entertainment programmes for north London's Greek and Cypriot communities. The new channel is available on Cable London, which serves about 12,000 homes.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Television's state-of-the art news

Gulf willing, from Thursday News At Ten will not have to put out a full 30-minute bulletin until January 2.

Ambitions to make its mark as an international news organisation to rival the American networks, ITN, under its then editor and chief executive, now chairman, Sir David Nicholas, had been looking to expand since 1982.

As part of its overall expenditure of £120 million, Stanhope gutted the building and hired award-winning architects Norman Foster and Associates to design an appropriate media palace for the 21st century. Making use of a curious shape, Foster came up with what in

effect are two blue-tinted glass structures around a central, quasi-rectangular atrium.

ITN agreed to rent the whole development back. It intends to use five floors and let five others. Flush with the sale of its former Wells Street headquarters for £24 million at the start of this year, it has spent £45 million fitting out its new building, including £18 million on broadcasting equipment and installation.

overstretched itself by the way it has moved into this building. ITN has recently been asked to find 36 voluntary redundancies.

Paul Matthews, ITN's deputy chief executive, says the old offices were seriously overcrowded. "Of course, it is terribly important that we let the new building long term. But obviously we've planned for a certain period of void. We're looking for a mixture of professional people." One possibility is that one of the American television networks might be attracted to share the expensive new broadcasting facilities. Finding new tenants will be high on Bob Phillips' agenda when he joins ITN as chief executive from Carlton Communications in February.

ANDREW LYCETT

ITN is settling into a new £120 million home.

Now it needs tenants to help pay the bills

able to

So far, ITN has budgeted to find a client for off-shoot a year, bring income of £100 million. This hole in a time when balance sheet tying to maximise the company and preparing to its profit margin of its equity by sell off 51 per cent by the new 1994. *Big Act*.

Broadway night. John Hunt, *Ones* editor of *Channel 4 News*, jubilant about the *News* running of the programme. *He* also chairman of the joint *ITN* of *ITN's* four unions, and *ITN* that, he says: "The impression is that the company has

retire behind, newsprint drug, addicted to withdrawal symptoms may be leprosy Day, and tons of the latest scrap of long to about Mrs Major's information at Chequers or turkeys about new faces on *reverence Street*. As I intend to

C Boxing Day at Wincanton. I shall be looking for *andarin's* advice on how to invest my money. Maybe that's as good a reason as any for having newspapers on Boxing Day.

FINE ART SALES

Los Angeles based publisher of limited edition art work seeks enterprising individual to handle European sales. The job involves arranging exhibitions in European capital cities for a celebrity artist and direct sales to the public. Some gallery experience and foreign language would be an advantage. Must be free to travel and be able to work on one's own initiative.

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The Thatcher factor stirs the market



A 17th century Covent Garden rarity: £530,000

Agents at the top of the market are hopeful despite the recession, Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent, discovers

Mrs Thatcher has relinquished office, but it is difficult to avoid her presence in any field of activity in which she takes part. Property is no exception.

Mark Thatcher gave a foretaste of the family property story in October when he bought a house in Tregunter Road, South Kensington, from Peter de Savary, the entrepreneur. For some months, there have been rumours and reported sightings of Denis Thatcher viewing London properties away from the Dulwich home it's a couple bought in 1985.

The latest report, that the Thatchers are considering a large house in Tite Street, Chelsea, priced at £7.5 million, has been met with a dead beat, to continue the metaphor. Mrs Thatcher used about the leadership issue, from the age at Savills, whose discretion is jealously preserved. The possibility of a Thatcher move, to there or anywhere else, has not been mentioned.

Back at Dulwich Gate, Hampton, is offering a house of identical architectural design to "Mrs Thatcher's" Barratt house, 50 yards away. The house is being sold by a "high-flying stockbroker who holds two world altitude records for hang-gliding and civilian free-fall parachuting", as Andrew Lever, of Hamptons, Dulwich, describes the owner.

The Thatcher house is valued at around £600,000, and for this house, one of the biggest in

Dulwich Gate, with six bedrooms and four bathrooms, the agent is asking more than £360,000.

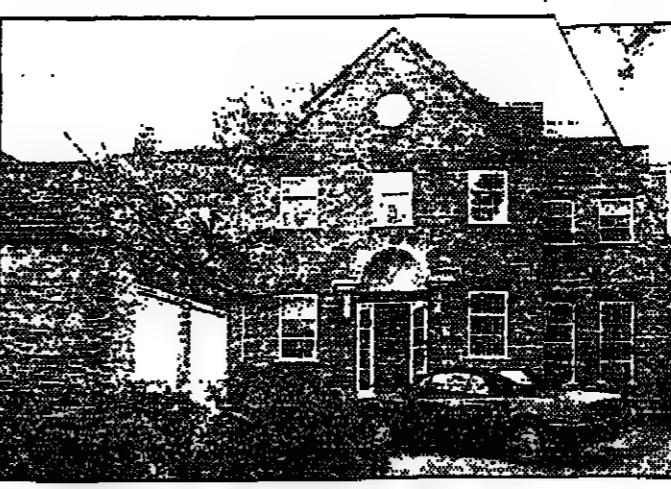
In the upper London market, Noel Flint, of Knight Frank & Rutley, rejects the suggestion that there has been nothing doing for months. "The volume of sales is down compared with last year, but there are houses being bought and sold," he says. "Most of the interest seems to be at £350,000, although there have been sales at more than £1 million."

He says many buyers are seeking an investment. "Also, some buyers are waiting for bargains, waiting for distress sales, but there are not as many as they would wish," he says. "That is happening at the lower end of the market."

Mr Flint does not expect any great change in the short term, although the underlying feeling is that things will not get any worse.

"I believe we are at the bottom of the curve, but I cannot see the magic ingredient to give it the impetus upwards," he says. "The next general election is on people's minds, and perhaps that needs to be out of the way, with signs that the recession is coming to an end, before the property market gathers momentum."

Barnard Marcus, which has offices throughout London, has seen a growth in confidence in the past six months. Robin Paterson, its managing director, says, prop-



Just like Mrs Thatcher's Dulwich house: price £500,000-plus

erty at the lower end of the market levelled out in September-October, resulting in a shortage of properties for first-time buyers. The drop in interest rates accelerated the recovery in the market. Prices in the middle and upper ranges levelled in November, and throughout the entire market in December there has been an acute shortage of quality properties for sale.

Not all properties on offer have seen such a reduction, but prices have invariably been adjusted.

There are only ten freehold houses in Covent Garden. Apartments, with E.A. Shaw, is a sitting room, both in Town Court, and dating from the late 17th century. They have the original fireplaces, wall paneling, plasterwork and staircase. They have six rooms altogether spread over five floors.

One is unmodernised and priced at about £400,000. The second is modernised and is a main three-bedroom house with a self-contained maisonette. The price is £530,000.

IN THE MARKET

THE OLD POST OFFICE at Chastleton, near Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, is the home of Penelope Mortimer, the author and amateur gardener. She recently combined the two talents in her screenplay for *Portrait of a Marriage*, the biography of Vita Sackville-West shown on BBC2, and her garden has a border copied from one planted by Vita Sackville-West at Gissinghurst. The 18th-century, Grade II listed cottage was originally built as a head gardener's cottage and stands on two-thirds of an acre of gardens which have been open under a national garden scheme. It has three bedrooms, two reception rooms and a study, and is for sale at £85,000 through Lane & Cincaster office.

UNSTEAD COURT, near Faversham, one of Kent's most notable medieval tithe houses, which had been abandoned for more than 40 years, has been leased off life after its sale at auction last week for £240,000. A Grade II listed property, on the home of the Gentleman Usher of the Privy Chamber in Elizabeth I's reign, had a guide price £280,000-plus through the agent Jackson-Stops & Staff. Two other houses in the grounds, with a guide price of between £10,000 and £30,000, were sold separately for £9,000. More than 400 enquiries were received before the auction, which in a buoyant market could be considered above average, but in the present market's exceptional.

BUCHAN HOUSE, built to the specification of the architect Samuel Teulon, is an imposing Grade II listed Victorian former rectory in the Wiltshire hamlet of Fosbury. The house is a fine example of neo-Gothic architecture, with cruciform gables decorated with red brick patterns. The house is set in grounds that include former Sunday school buildings, and has four reception rooms with six bedrooms. However, Pimsey office's asking for offers of more than £400,000.

PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE

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£100,000. 3 bedroomed house, 2 reception

A new development demonstrates the spread of offices, says Christopher Warman

Despite worsening economic conditions, many companies in the City of London expect to expand and are looking for better quality offices, the chartered surveyor Weatherall Green & Smith concludes from a survey that has taken place over the past year.

An update of the results of a survey carried out in the summer of last year shows that, since then, in four of the companies had increased their floor space an average of 10 per cent.

While City rents have risen one per cent, rents in the outer London area have risen about 12.5 per cent, according to the survey.

While City rents have risen one per cent, rents in the outer London area have risen about 12.5 per cent, according to the survey.

The professional sector has played the greatest optimism for the future, with 43 per cent looking for more space by 1992 compared with only 23 per cent in the commercial sector.

Analysing the results, Keith Stevenson, the head of Weatherall Green & Smith's London office, says: "Businesses seem to be planning their expansion sooner rather than later; 55 per cent are determined to make their move in 1991. This seems more bullish than a year ago, when the proportion was 26 per cent."

The level of dissatisfaction with existing accommodation appears to be growing, with 33 per cent reporting dissatisfaction compared with 28 per cent in the original survey. Quality of space and rents ranked as the two most important causes of dissatisfaction. Location of the office remains as important, rated more highly than quality of



One of the capital's most dramatic buildings, the Ark, in west London, will provide 175,000 sq ft of space by three-quarters of the completion.

The City retains its top spot as the preferred location for companies already there (86 per cent), and nearly the same number (82 per cent) believed that it would still be at the top by the year 2000.

One shift in opinion is that City businesses expect that by 2000, Docklands would be more suitable for them than the West End, but only 13 per cent saw Docklands as a possible location for themselves.

ALAN WELLER

wedged between an underground line and the elevated roadway. The new building is off the central London office-rent contour map published by Hillier Parker, which shows the ascendancy of West End rents over those in the City.

The change is most apparent in the core areas of highest rental value, which have widened in the West End but contracted in the City.

The map, giving a rental "profile" for autumn 1990, shows that the wider choice of new office accommodation available to the prospective tenant in the City has produced an increasingly competitive letting market. The highest City rent contour, at £60 and £70 a sq ft, has contracted to cover a small area around the Bank of England. Outside this core, there is still a sizeable area within the £40 to £50 contour, where key new office locations continue to influence rental values in the expanded City market.

In the West End, the £60 to £70 a sq ft contour has expanded to include most of Mayfair and St James's. A new £70-plus contour has been introduced for the most sought after addresses within these areas, around Berkeley Square and St James's Square. At the same time, the £40 to £50 contours have expanded southwards because of the growth in the Victoria, Belgrave and Millbank areas.

Hillier Parker last year predicted that each other in its own area.

The building, the first commercial development in London by Ralph Erskine, the 1987 Royal Gold Medal for Architecture winner, includes meeting and exhibition areas and social amenities, arranged round a central atrium. Its unusual shape is a consequence of the site,

Edinburgh claims a rental record

In the north, will transform the city-centre site with a mix of and leisure, business, retail and range of houses, with a surrounding area in landscaped room, houses, a 150-bed range, will be built and a residential buildings to preserve the character of the area. The scheme, to start next May, is due for completion in 1994.

Lloyds Bank has paid £1.3 million for a site at Grosvenor Developments' Grosvenor business park in Kent, on which it is to develop a 40,000 sq ft office building. The site is within the park's 150,000 sq ft office campus, and the bank's decision coincides with Grosvenor Developments' letting at neighbouring Ambly Green to the Halifax Building Society.

The park will accommodate about 50 companies, as well as shopping and leisure facilities. The agents are King & Company and Donaldsons.

Continuing overseas investment in London property is demonstrated by Zurich Insurance's purchase of the freehold of 50 Fenchurch Street, London EC3, a recently completed office scheme by P&O Developments. Zurich Insurance will take nearly half the 85,000 sq ft, and with Bradstock Group Services occupying further space, the agent, Debenham Tewkesbury, is asking between £42.50 and £47.50 a sq ft for the remaining 18,500 sq ft.

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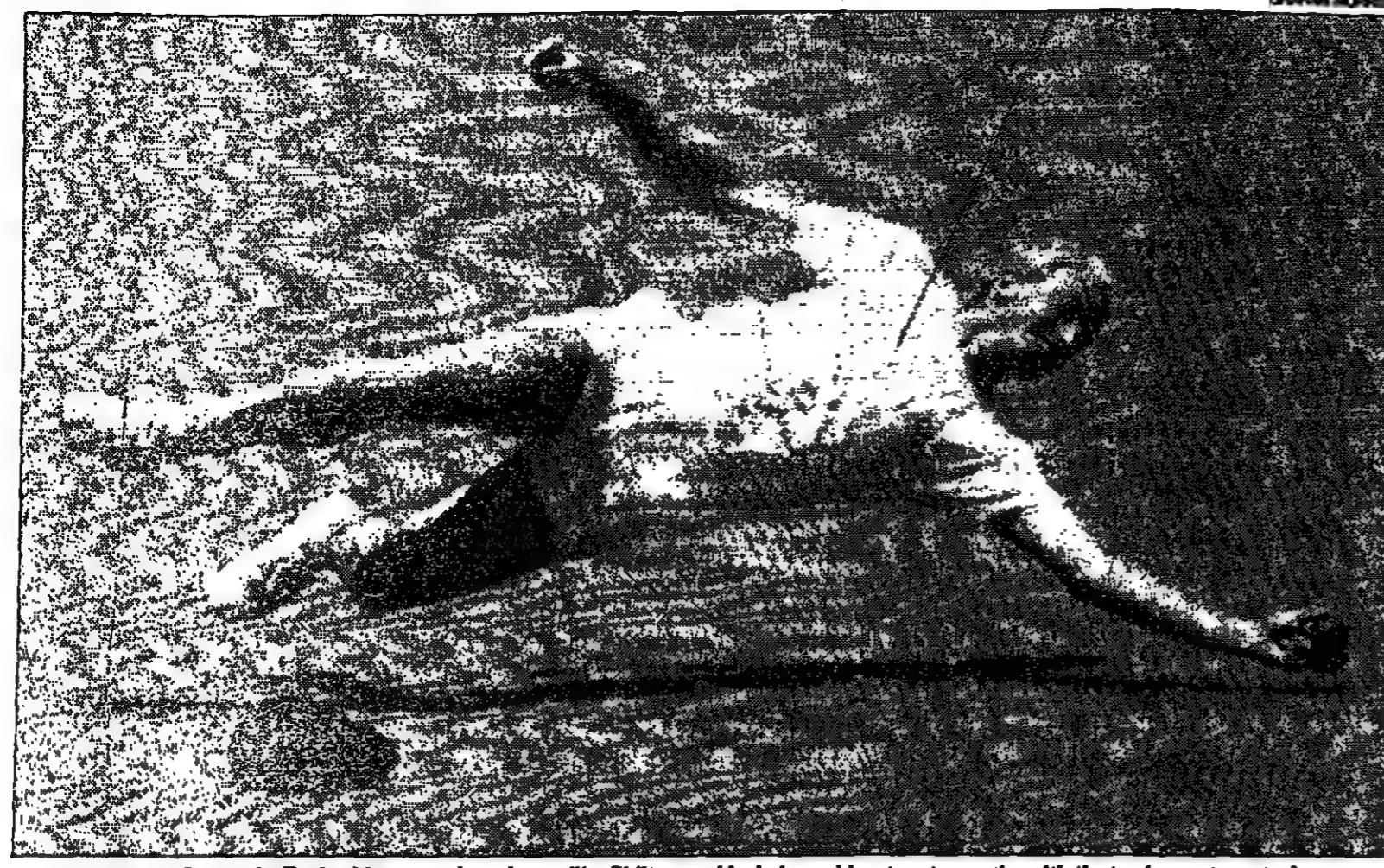
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England, their place in the WSC finals again in doubt, hope to play their Test batting line-up against Victoria

Gower prospecting for form



Goalkeeper Gower: the England batsman showed an agility Shilton would admire on his return to practice with the touring party yesterday

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
BRISBANE

YOU would never have known it from the look on his face or the tone of his repartee, but when David Gower resumed active service on the England tour yesterday it came as profound relief to a man pricked by the anxiety of bearing once again that his career was on a slippery path to oblivion.

Gower's philosophy is that life is for living, be it on a skiing holiday, on safari or on a decidedly shaky cricket tour. In the two weeks since he last lifted a bat to any serious purpose, therefore, he will not exactly have confined himself to a hotel room with the coaching manual.

But for all that it will have been a fraught, frustrating fortnight for one who, despite appearances, neither ignores nor easily endures criticism. He need, not his favourite pastime, with a striking air of purpose yesterday before declaring himself available for the four-day game against Victoria starting tomorrow.

Gower came on this tour to the disapproval of some who felt him to be past his sell-by date. He made top

score in both innings of the first Test but did not win everyone over and, interestingly, he bristled at suggestions that his batting had been blessed by excessive luck. As the tour left the rails, Gower was cited as a bad influence, a player whose sanguine style was at odds with the single-minded front presented by Gooch and Stewart. To top it all, he was then injured.

It was nothing more serious than a damaged right thumb, sustained in the field at Canberra, but although the cracked tip was tolerable, the swelling lower down persisted painfully so that Gower could not grip a bat for a week and could not hit the ball without flinching for several days more.

There are worse times on tour to be inactive, particularly given Gower's jaundiced view of one-day cricket. But the private determination of this publicly ambivalent man is not to be underestimated. He does not wish to be considered a passenger and neither does he believe his talent to be obsolete. He knows he must prove it this week in the gold rush town of Ballarat, where England's strategy for the second Test will be unfurled and examined.

"I must try and make the best possible use of the next week," Gower said after batting for a half-hour without reaction. "It has reached the stage where I can ignore whatever discomfort remains in the thumb, and I know I must. I have to play in Ballarat if I hope to make the Test side."

Gower's sense of isolation during recent days led him to suspect a prank when the laundry service at the team's Brisbane hotel telephoned him on Sunday morning to inquire if he needed his blue, one-day kit washed in a hurry. "As I hadn't played for so long it was all pristine clean," he said.

There is no doubt that Gower will play against Victoria. The only question is whether he, Robin Smith or Alec Stewart will occupy the No. 3 position in what will be selected as a Test match batting order.

Ideally, Gower would move down to five, or even six, where the new ball will hopefully not follow him, but this would create another dilemma. Smith, perhaps the ideal No. 3, is in wretched form and openly fretting about it; Stewart has not played better since becoming an England player but his

free style is not best suited by an early exposure to Reid and Alderman.

Lamb, the only consistent force in England's fragile batting, is one man who could easily be rested but his appetite for cricket is such that he will definitely play. This leaves only the identity of Gooch's opening partner to resolve and Atherton ought to win this place, well ahead of the hapless Larkham and marginally in front of Hugh Morris, who continues to look in wonderful form at practice but simply cannot get a game.

Devon Malcolm, disorientated by his experiences in the one-day side, should be granted the chance to rekindle confidence and Paul Tuttell, the best bowler for England in the World Series competition, but surely play in preparation for a Test debut in Melbourne. But there is no point in punishing an evidently weary Angus Fraser and he will rightly be rested.

Two wounded English bowlers, Lewis and Small, both made tentative progress in the nets yesterday and now have the presence of DeFreitas as the spur for their recovery before a game that England, quite properly, will regard as one of the most significant of the tour.

Australia's defeat is an additional worry for England

FROM ALAN LEE

AS IF they did not already have enough to contend with on this tour, England yesterday watched in horror as their prescribed path to the World Series finals was undermined by an outbreak of Australian complacency and carelessness.

By presenting an extraordinary one-run win to New Zealand in Hobart, Australia exploded a few myths about their unshakable professionalism. They also changed the shape of this competition, and England will now be the team eliminated unless they win at least one of their two remaining qualifying games against the chastened Australians.

In attempting to spread the load of responsibility among their players, Australia elaborately reorganized their batting order as they went in pursuit of victory. New Zealand's score of 194, Dean Jones' twice century accounted for England on Sunday, dropped to No. 6 with Allan Border even lower at No. 8.

The plan proved a spectacular failure but at 137 for six, when Jones and Border came together, the capacity crowd at Bellerive Oval and a television audience that included the England players in Brisbane, were still expecting them to steer the side home.

Instead, they were two of four consecutive run-outs, as Australia's ambition for a 100 per cent record in the competition met a stomach-churning end.

They began the fifth over with two runs needed for victory, the last pair together and Bruce Reid facing Chris Pringle. Amazingly, Reid failed to make contact with a single ball and Greg Matthews, his partner, failed to get himself down to the striker's end. In a farcical climax, Reid was run out from the final ball, leaving the New Zealanders scarcely able to credit their reprieve and England contemplating two high-

World Series Cup

	P	W	L	pts	R/Rate
Australia	5	3	2	10	4.65
New Zealand	5	2	3	8	4.05
England	5	2	4	4	4.19

REMAINING MATCHES: Jan 1: Australia v England (Sydney); Jan 10: Australia v South Africa (Melbourne). Friday, Jan 12: South Africa v England (Melbourne). Jan 17 (if required): Headbands.

pressure games after Christmas, when they meet Australia in Sydney on New Year's Day and in Melbourne on January 10.

Defeat for Australia had seemed barely conceivable when Martin Crowe, who has claimed New Zealand's batting order all but single-handed, was legged to Alderman for five at the start of the day. Four looked as many as they could expect but some spirited late hitting from Latham and Young produced a target which Australia, for once, did not treat with due respect.

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May and Hickey defy the odds

OVERSEAS CRICKET
by SIMON WILDE

WHILE Allan Border was leading Australia to an all too predictable win over England in Brisbane on Sunday, his state, Queensland, was unexpectedly losing to South Australia in Adelaide. Adelaide is one of the easier grounds on which to avoid defeat and South Australia, who possess probably the most fearsome attack among Sheffield Shield sides, were previously without a point in the shield this season.

Queensland, who had declared 163 runs behind on the first innings, were scuppered on the last day by a spell of three wickets, the last bowler, with last man Nobes, took four wickets in five balls against the England XI, and by the return to form of Tim May, the off spinner. May had innings figures of six for 115, his best for three seasons. Hickey's spell included the wicket of Hick for one. Hick had earlier recorded his first half-century for his state.

This was an eventful match. Hobbs, the Queensland captain, needed 13 stiches above an eye after being struck by a bouncer from Scuderi, and Monty's hundred for Queensland took longer (435 minutes) than the combined time taken by Hookes, who smashed 178 in 223 minutes, and Nobes to score centuries for South Australia.

In New Zealand, Canterbury have opened up a commanding first lead in the Shell Trophy after winning outright for the second successive week. They beat Northern Districts by eight wickets, Chris Cairns continuing his rehabilitation from injury by taking four first-innings wickets. Auckland lie in second place after beating Central Districts by 44 runs.

Ajay Sharma, the Test all-rounder, has begun the season in India in purring form with the bat. For Duleep in the north zone of the Rail Trophy, he followed a 100-year-old tradition against Services, an unbroken 163 against Himachal Pradesh. Bombay wicket-keeper Wills, India's one-day competition, beat the Wu Xi by nine wickets in the final.

South Africa's Nissan 50-50 one-day competition was won by Transvaal for the first time, five years when they beat Eastern Province, the holders, by six wickets on Saturday, despite the latter having home advantage at Port Elizabeth before a capacity crowd of 15,000. Roy Pienaar scored 75 not out for Transvaal.

Warwickshire factions agree peace formula

WARWICKSHIRE'S two rival factions have agreed a peace formula, with Bob Evans, the deposed chairman, withdrawing two of the four proposals that led to his removal from office, along with his ally, Peter Bromage (Chris Moore writes).

As part of the agreement, the general committee, under the temporary chairmanship of M. J. K. Smith, the former England and Warwickshire captain, has agreed to set up a working party for "urgent review" of the

role and structure of the cricket committee. The findings will be conveyed to the general committee on January 3.

The club said yesterday that in the "best interests of Warwickshire cricket" the general committee had agreed that the proposals relating to the number of members on the committee, and the number of former players eligible to serve on it, would be withdrawn. But the committee will consider this after the annual meeting.

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For further details, please contact Fiona Mitchell, Secretarial Services Manager, King's Fund College, 2 Palace Court, London, WC2H 4HS. Tel: 071-727 0511 from 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.). Closing date for applications is 21st December 1990 and interviews will take place in January.

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General Highway to give Chugg another profitable dividend

By MANDARIN

SINCE John Chugg, the former point-to-point rider, embarked on a training career eight years ago he has quietly reaped success from a stable of only a dozen horses.

Today, I am napping General Highway to gain another victory for Chugg in the Barkin Developments Handicap Hurdle at Bangor.

Chugg is already comparing General Highway with Master Rajah, the standard bearer in his Milton-under-Wychwood yard, who will be aimed at this season's Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Cheltenham festival.

However, General Highway will need to improve considerably from his seasonal outing when only eighth of ten behind Gay Ruffman at Worcester. But Chugg has shown that he is a past master at improving his horses from their debut outing.

Last season, General Highway showed excellent form when beating Mossgrass by 25 lengths at Uttoxeter with the third-placed Viridian, who re-appeared today on 3lb worse terms for a 32-length beating.

The much heralded Mander's Way appears to be the principal danger. Last season, the former Irish Developments Novices' Chase and favourite Young Benz to make a winning chasing debut. Young Benz, like the Gordon Richards-trained Jinxy Jack, also has smart form over hurdles.

Miss Knight, however, can be on the mark earlier in the



Chugg: reaping success

afternoon with Flemish Fudge in the EBF Cross Foxes Intermediate Handicap Chase. The home-bred gelding has performed with credit for the permit holder John Pilkington in good company, both this season and last.

Jinxy Jack is another who has also shown his penchant for this course when successful on his chasing debut last month. Since that victory, though, this former top-class hurdler has failed to complete the course in three outings over fences.

As much as I admire the six-year-old, I feel he is worth opposing in the Barkin Developments Novices' Chase and favourite Young Benz to make a winning chasing debut. Young Benz, like the Gordon Richards-trained Jinxy Jack, also has smart form over hurdles.

General Highway is another who should benefit from a drop in class in the Winstay Hunt Supporters Handicap Chase. The home-bred gelding has performed with credit for the permit holder John Pilkington in good company, both this season and last.

One of the gelding's best

efforts came at Newbury last season when he was third behind Decided, beaten 12 lengths. Today, he may have most to fear from the former useful staying hurdler Petrempa Network.

On the Flat all-weather

surface at Lingfield Park, I expect the Toby Balding-trained Respectables Jones to defy top weight in the Christina Handicap.

Paul Cole and his stable

jockey Richard Quinn, who had their best-ever season on the turf, can complete a double with Shadwell (12.15) and Dearest (1.45).

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lengths. Today, he may have

most to fear from the former

useful staying hurdler

Petrempa Network.

On the Flat all-weather

surface at Lingfield Park, I

expect the Toby Balding-

trained Respectables Jones

to defy top weight in the Christina Handicap.

Paul Cole and his stable

jockey Richard Quinn, who had their best-ever season on the turf, can complete a double with Shadwell (12.15) and Dearest (1.45).

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One of the gelding's best

Government backing needed for Olympic bid

THE British Olympic Association (BOA), a group of unpretentious administrators representing the 30 winter and summer sports of the Olympic Games, meets today to take a decision that affects not just the face of British sport but to a degree the international face of the nation.

Do the British still see themselves as sufficiently important to ask the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the right to stage the Olympic Games at the turn of the century? Are we capable, temporally and financially, of launching a third bid in seven years that will have a realistic chance of being taken seriously by the rest of the world? The consequences either way are far-reaching.

Pedants remind me that the 21st century arrives at midnight, December 31, 2000, but

DAVID MILLER
CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

celebrations will begin a year early. If the present government, or any other, wishes to elevate British international prestige by peaceful means, relatively cheaply, then no global event is better capable of doing so than hosting the Olympic Games. Ask Seoul, or Barcelona, or Atlanta.

John Major should initiate committed Conservative support for the BOA in pursuit of this goal – if not in 2000, then in 2004 – and an all-party parliamentary committee should be created to maintain it. If the BOA decides this afternoon to proceed with another bid, it should do so knowing that it will

be truly a British bid supported by government.

There is an element within the BOA, led by Sir Arthur Gold, the chairman, which questions Britain's capacity to challenge the governmental power behind the bid of a Peking, Berlin or Paris; and that it would be better not to bid at all than to do so inadequately. This opinion finds support among those who consider that the only powerful, and internationally appealing, bid from Britain can be made by London rather than the provinces.

This perception, for which justification can be found in any straw poll among IOC members – and particularly among their wives for whom an Olympic Games is an opportunity for subsidised tourism and shopping – certainly exists. However, the perception is likely to be challenged today by leading figures within the BOA, and particularly by those with the most recent first-hand experience of bidding. Most notably by the Princess Royal, the BOA's president.

It is known that both Manchester – again, following failure for 1996 – and London wish to bid. Birmingham, which failed for 1992, may also enter the ring. A decision on a candidate must be taken in April: today's debate is on whether to bid at all, and to establish basic guidelines. Britain has never successfully bid: 1908 and 1948 we got the IOC out of a jam.

When London last attempted,

for 1992, it received a derisory two votes from the BOA. Now there are three interested London groups, which are expected to amalgamate. The committee at present led by

Sebastian Coe is confident that it can gather the finance, public and private, together with the collaboration of the Metropolitan police and London transport, to overcome the seemingly insuperable odds of staging a Games in one of the world's most congested cities; a city, moreover, which at present is almost wholly without adequate modern facilities, or a local government authority such as the Greater London Council.

The optimism of those gathering around a London project is worthy. Yet the BOA, and the government, in the person of the prime minister and his fellow sporting enthusiasts such as Chris Patten, may well decide that the enormous investment required would be better spent, for reasons both practical and political, in the provinces. It is relevant that six of the seven

summer Games since Munich in 1972 will not have been staged in a capital city.

The Princess Royal, whose royal position does not prevent her most active involvement among IOC colleagues, is of the opinion that Manchester's bid for 1996 was excellently led by Bob Scott, substantially raised British sporting prestige, and was seen to be a credible, sports-oriented bid.

She is expected to advocate continuity, with Manchester and Scott; and will be supported today by her IOC colleague Mary Glen-Hall, and by the retired honorary IOC member Lord Luke. "It is essential we stay in the ring, maintain the momentum, and show that we care," Lord Luke says.

What is evident to those who witnessed the Manchester campaign for 1996 at close quarters,

and the ultimate success of Atlanta, is the enormous time commitment that is required from a team of personable representatives lobbying IOC members around the world.

Billy Payne and Charlie Battle, of Atlanta, both lawyers, were exceptional, devoting four years exclusively to the campaign and flying inter-continental sometimes daily for more than a week with five nights in the air. Leopoldo Rodes, a banker who led the Barcelona bid, met each of the 90 IOC members an average seven times. He would fly to Mexico City or Cairo for the weekend just to join two or three IOC members at a football match.

Such is the demand and commitment of the bid process. London, if nominated by the BOA, would be starting from square one.

SKIING

Furuseth solves his slalom quandary after Tomba falls

MADONNA di Campiglio, Italy (Reuter) – Ole Christian Furuseth of Norway, scored a crushing win in a World Cup slalom race yesterday after Alberto Tomba, the favourite, fell on the second run.

Furuseth, with the advantage of starting last after clocking the best first-leg time, had little left to do when the Italian, his only serious rival, took a tumble just after half-way. He finished more than two seconds ahead of Tomas Fogdöe, of Sweden, who came from the back markers to secure second place, with Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, third.

Furuseth said the departure of Tomba, who trailed him by just 0.49sec after the first leg, had left him in a quandary. "I was thinking I would have to go fast but when I knew Tomba was out, I wasn't sure what to do," he said. "I asked myself whether I should take risks or not and decided it would be better to get down safely."

Furuseth showed little sign of caution on his second run, clocking the second best time of 47.60sec for an aggregate of 1min 37.96sec.

Tomba, who lost his chance to overtake Franz Heinz, of Switzerland, and move to the top of the overall World Cup standings, said: "I think I would have pulled off a great time on the lower part of the course." Fogdöe, aged 20, a policeman's son from Gallivare in north Sweden, the most northerly point where World Cup races have been held, was overjoyed. "I couldn't have dreamt this," he said. "It's impossible to grasp. I was so far behind after the first run I decided to take my chance and go for broke."

SQUASH RACKETS

Debt collectors back Lambs

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

LAMBS Club contested the first half of the Pimm's Premier League under the fashionably entrepreneurial banner of the now collapsed Levitt Group. They will begin the second half of the season with new sponsorship from London and Provincial Factors.

Those who follow such matters in the City of London will know London and Provincial is one of the leading factoring agents or debt collectors, in the country, which lends added piquancy to their new connection with Lambs, the City club left holding a minor unpaid part of the massive Levitt failure.

Those who follow squash affairs will recognise an astute takeover. Lambs were lying second on the Pimm's league table as they went into this week's vital clash against the leaders, Carlisle Cannons. Their signing of chairman Khan of Pakistan, the British Open champion, fighting to maintain top form after a decade of

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RESULTS: 1, O Furuseth (Nor), 1min 37.96sec; 2, T Fogdöe (Swe), 1:40.04; 3, M Girardelli (Lux), 1:44.03; 4, A Tomba (Ita), 1:44.31; 5, T Heinz (Aust), 1:45.22; 6, B Garmi (Aust), 1:45.19; equal 7, Mats Ericson (Swe), 1:45.20; 8, K Kjellson (Nor), 1:45.33; 9, T Cunliffe (Eng), 1:45.37. Leading slalom standings (after three events): 1, Furuseth, 48pts; 2, A Tomba, 47; 3, T Heinz, 46; 4, S Fogdöe, 45; 5, L Persson, 40. Leading overall World Cup standings: 1, Heinz (Swe), 76; 2, Tomba, 72; 3, Furuseth, 62; 4, A Tomba (Nor), 52; 5, Girardelli, 51; 6, P Fidell (Fr), 45.

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The Nottingham squad is sponsored for the second season by Reebok, another shoe company, which presumably meant added from a victory ensured by the first appearance at third string of Jane Martin, the British under 19 champion.

Opie, the British No. 1 and world No. 2, lost the No. 2 second time in 24 hours to Australia's Michelle Martin, who also beat her in Helsinki in the Finnish Open title, but the Finnish Open title, but the strength of Warner and Martin carried Reebok Nottingham into second place.

RESULTS: 1, B Reebok Co., 1:45.87; 2, H Zurbuchen (Swiss), 1:45.92; 3, N Seipinger (Aust), 1:46.01; 4, A Tomba (Ita), 1:46.01; 5, L Laroche (Can), 1:45.21; 6, A Haas (Aust), 1:45.22; 7, V Zdenek (Czech), 1:45.23; 8, S Langer (Aust), 1:45.24; 9, T Cunliffe (Eng), 1:45.29; 10, S Glazman (USSR), 1:45.47.

The team will be known as L and P Lambs for the rest of the season. It is to be hoped that the change does not follow the pattern established by similar similes in the SRA women's superleague this week.

Last season's superleague title was won by Colets Club largely through the second string strength of Alison Cummings.

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Germans unite against Swiss

STUTTGART (Reuters) —

United Germany makes its first
foray on to the football field
today, hoping that its hooligan
element will not mar the match
against Switzerland. "We want
great enthusiasm, but no hooli-
gans," the team captain, Lothar
Matthäus, said.The match was arranged after
November's game between East and West German teams in
Leipzig was called off because of
spectator violence in the former
Communist state. After a riot by
West German supporters in
Luxembourg at a European
ampionship qualifier in October,
officials want the firstUnited Germany game for
almost 50 years to celebrate West
Germany's World Cup triumph
and look positively to the future.

Stuttgart police said around

150 officers would

watch

supporters on their way to the
city to the stadium, but said

they did not expect any trouble.

"But if there is trouble, we have
the experience to deal with it
after staging matches at the 1988
European championships," a
police spokeswoman said.

• SEVILLE: Spain will aim to

score freely when they take on

United face stern test against French opponents

By STUART JONES

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER United, England's only representatives in Europe, will have to be at their best if they are to reach the last four of the Cup Winners' Cup. They have been drawn against Montpellier, the French entrants who have already removed two notable contenders, PSV Eindhoven and Steaua Bucharest.

United's victims, Pecsi Munkas in the first round and Wrexham in the second, are negligible by comparison. Both were dismissed with ease and the quarter-final, which is to start at Old Trafford on March 6, will be a significantly sterner test for Alex Ferguson's enigmatic outfit.

Their inconsistency has been illustrated by their results in the homes of the two stronger sides in England. In the middle of September, United suffered their worst defeat by Liverpool for 65 years and six weeks later they inflicted on Arsenal their heaviest loss since 1921.

Although they will be steadier once Robson is able to play a full part, they promise to remain unpredictable. If United are to match their best performance in the competition (they reached the semi-final in 1984 before being knocked out by Juventus), their defence at

Albion in a European championship group one qualifying match today. The Spaniards are expected to start the game with three forwards — Emilio Butragueño, Carlos Muñoz and Manolo Sánchez.

Spain are in third place in group one, behind France and Czechoslovakia, but have only played two games against their rivals' three. The Spaniards started their European championship with a win over Iceland but slipped to a 3-2 defeat by Czechoslovakia in Prague after leading 2-1 and seeming to have the match won.

Albion, bottom of the group without a point or a goal, should set Spain few problems. Spain have come out on top in their only two previous encounters, 2-1 and 5-0.

• VALLETTA: The Netherlands, led by Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten, have much to avenge when they play Malta in a European championship group six qualifier today (Reuters reports).

It was Malta who stopped the Dutch, competition winners in 1988, from reaching the 1984

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• SEVILLE: Spain will aim to

score freely when they take on

Hertfordshire put Meara under pressure

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL
by GREGORY CHESTERTON

THE Independent Schools went down 3-1 to a talented Hertfordshire under-18 side at the Bank of England ground, Royston. A defensive lapse by Hertfordshire through for Somers to score their first goal. Five minutes after the interval, with Hertfordshire now well on top, Baker scored again and Hennan further increased their lead after an hour.

Sanson pulled a goal back with a 25-yard shot but Hertfordshire were denied further successes by the goalkeeping of Meara.

In the fourth round of the ESFA Trophy Derby and Newcastle drew 1-1 after extra time and now face a second replay.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SQUAD (For Morecambe under-18 team in April, J. Meers (Anstruther), D. McAllister (Glasgow), L. Allen (Ecclesall Woods (Sheffield), D. Whaley (Manchester), G. S. Norton (CESS Stockport), J. R. Smith (Bath), J. T. H. Jones (Brentwood), M. Ford (KES Wrexham), A. Sennett (Brentwood), J. Taylor (CESS Blackburn), R. Allen (Merton), C. H. Jones (Brentwood), G. Collett (Guernsey), A. H. Griffiths (Harrow), G. Boyce (Wolverhampton GS)).

EQUESTRIANISM

Olympia reaches new peak of popularity

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Olympia championships, which ended late on Monday night with the Cross and Blackwell grand prix — won by the Dutch national champion, Jos Lansink, on Optiebours Egano — was one of the most successful in the show's 19-year history.

Capacity audiences in the 6,600-seat arena on each of the five nights, combined with the highest quality of entries that the director, Raymond Brooks-Ward, says he has seen, confirmed the widely held view that the show is now the most popular in Europe. When it started, in 1972, Brooks-Ward went out onto the street and gave away tickets in an attempt to fill seats.

Lansink, who won the grand prix with the only clear round in the 16-horse jump-off, said: "When we were walking the course we thought it was more

FOOTBALL

United face stern test against French opponents

By STUART JONES

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

European Cup
Spartak Moscow v Real Madrid
AC Milan v Marseille
Bayern Munich v Dynamo Dresden
Sporting CP v Porto

Cup Winners' Cup

Legia Warsaw v Sampdoria

Dynamo Kiev v Juventus

Manchester United v Montpellier

Standard Léige v Juventus

Uefa Cup

Bologna v Sporting Lisbon

Borussia v Dynamo Moscow

Atletico v Steaua Bucharest

AS Roma v Anderlecht

Matches to be played on March 6 and 20

least will have to be consistent.

Ferguson foresees the first leg being a lively occasion. "It is a terrifically attractive draw," he said yesterday, "because they will come to entertain." Valderrama, the Colombia captain, is invariably colourful but Montpellier, like United, have yet to concede a goal so far and their sound defence also features their leading scorer.

Blanc, their sweeper, has claimed 11 goals but his contribution at the back is likely to be more restrained. "We will have to change our plans to counter United's non-stop style," Henry Casperczak, the Polish coach of Montpellier, said.

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Three-match ban on Adams is upheld by FA

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE Football Association yesterday announced that it was upholding a three-match suspension automatically imposed on Tony Adams, the Arsenal defender, when he was sent off for a professional foul at Luton on December 8. George Graham, the Arsenal manager, expressed sadness at the decision, from which there is no right of appeal.

Philip Don, the referee at Kempton Road, ruled that Adams was guilty of the so-called professional foul when he prevented Iain Dowie from scoring for Luton. Many observers believed that Adams, who had never previously been dismissed, was attempting to play the ball but succeeded only in unbalancing Dowie as the forward approached goal, and that a penalty would have been sufficient punishment.

Don believed he was adhering to a directive from Fifa, the game's governing body, issued last summer demanding the red card for professional fouls. However, interpretation of the directive is highly subjective and Graham said: "If that was a professional foul will referees send every player off when a foul, other than a handball, is

committed in the penalty area?"

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), was so outraged at Adams's sending off that he wrote to the FA to prevent a serious "miscarriage of justice". Taylor hoped the FA would allow Adams to prove his innocence with video evidence, enabling the FA to override the dismissal, along with its automatic three-match ban.

But Glen Kirton, the head of external affairs for the FA, said: "The system of automatic suspensions for sendings-off and a fixed number of cautions was brought in because the old system was administratively unworkable. Players could appeal against every booking and sending-off, and it could go on forever."

The automatic system was brought in with the agreement of the PFA and the referees, so the PFA cannot really complain now.

The question of video evidence is separate. It has been claimed that it is unfair because we can use videos to find a player guilty but the players cannot use them to prove themselves innocent.

Suspension of referee adds to the confusion

By CLIVE WHITE

THE first known suspension of a referee in England, following a misinterpretation of the new edict from Fifa, the game's governing body, on the "professional foul", highlighted the inconsistency with which the law was being applied by Football League referees. Graham Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said yesterday.

Graham Pooley, of Bishop's Stortford, has been suspended for one game by the League's referees sub-committee for "an error of judgment in interpreting the mandatory instruction from the International Board".

Pooley sent off Ronnie Robinson, of Rotherham United, for deliberate handball when the player prevented a goal from being scored in a 4-2 defeat by Bournemouth on November 10. The Fifa directive only allows for a sending off in the event of a physical foul.

"The difference in inter-

pretation of the professional foul directive this season has caused no end of confusion and frustration," Taylor said. "A head of steam is building up among players and managers." Not only over this, he said, but also the offside law about when a player is or is not interfering with play.

Taylor was annoyed that the efforts which had been made to improve discipline over the past four years were being undermined by an exaggerated application of the Fifa directive.

"A great deal of concern is being expressed by players and managers about the standards of refereeing. No one expects them to be robot-like and perfectly consistent but I think we need to start from a base where at least everybody understands what should be done and how it should be interpreted."

"At the moment we don't even have a bedrock of interpretation," Taylor said.

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